

# MATTATHIAS

AND OTHER POEMS



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MATTATHIAS

AND OTHER POEMS



# MATTATHIAS

## AND OTHER POEMS

BY

FREDERIC ATKINSON, M.A.

CANON OF SOUTHWELL, AND LATE RECTOR OF  
DARLEY DALE, DERBYSHIRE

LONGMANS, GREEN, AND CO.

39 PATERNOSTER ROW, LONDON  
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## MATTATHIAS

B.C. 168

As breaks in young November  
A brief bright summer's day,  
And the gold and russet woodlands  
Put on their best array,  
Outvying the sheen of their midsummer green  
In the splendour of decay ;  
And again the autumnal fogs roll up  
Quenching the transient gleam,  
And the sodden leaves drop silently  
And whirl down the swollen stream,  
And the glory that flashed for a moment is dashed  
And melts like a morning dream ;

Or as on the far horizon  
To the wanderer's straining eye  
The palms of a dim oasis have shown  
Against the shimmering sky,  
And once more he has faced the treacherous waste  
Full of hope that his bourn is nigh ;  
And lo, he has come, and the vision is nought  
But a speck in the boundless plain,

And sorely bestead he must still struggle on  
    In weariness, thirst, and pain,  
Through the restless land where the King of the Sand  
    With silence divides his reign ;  
  
So bright, so brief, the triumph  
    In the Hebrew annals stored,  
When the Hasmonæan heroes  
    Unsheathed their patriot sword  
To plead the cause of the Heaven-breathed laws  
    For the kingdom of the Lord—  
An oasis in the desert,  
    A gleam in the winter sky,  
A passionate stroke of the zeal that awoke  
    In the ages long gone by—  
A stirring of breath in the chambers of Death,  
    One gasp ere the doomed one die.

---

There came a voice to Modin,  
    A message short and stern,  
It touched all hearts with shame, and made  
    All cheeks with anger burn ;  
Like glowing iron it scathed the ears  
    Of every freeborn man ;  
A Grecian Envoy bore it,  
    And thus the summons ran :—  
The word of King Antiochus—  
    “Hearken, ye rebel Jews  
Your duty slacks ; dare ye my wrath,  
    My patience still abuse ?

Who owns me for his sovereign lord  
    This homage let him pay :  
Upon the altar of my gods  
    He shall sacrifice to-day.”

Then up stood Mattathias,  
    His kindling eyes afire,  
Five noble sons stood by his side—  
    Sons worthy such a sire ;  
A Hebrew of the Hebrews,  
    Of Aaron’s priestly line,  
No grander champion of the truth  
    Was in all Palestine.  
With his right hand to Heaven upraised  
    In sign of plighted troth,  
He swore by Him whom scathless none  
    Calls witness to false oath—  
“ Not though all other men on earth  
    Should do this traitorous deed,  
Unto the Macedonian dog  
    Will I and mine give heed :  
God of our father Abraham,  
    Thee only will I serve,  
Our Israel’s Hope, from Thy commands  
    How can—how dare I swerve ?  
As I this day dishonour Thee  
    Or bravely Thee confess,  
So unto me and mine do Thou  
    In our last dire distress ! ”

## MATTATHIAS

He spoke, and through the craven throng  
A thrill of courage flew along.  
As all one way when the North blows strong  
    The ocean depths are heaved,  
So fled before that presence bold  
    The panic that all hearts controlled,  
    By one flash undeceived.  
No more the heroic acts of old  
Lived but in tales oft proudly told :  
A nation long to slavery sold  
    Those boasts had scarce believed ;  
But now such heat where all were cold  
    Seemed victory half-achieved.

A murmur swelling, dying again,  
    Like the gusts of a rising breeze,  
When there's scarce a sound in the lower ground  
    But a stir in the highest trees—  
A murmur, then grim silence,  
    Like the hush of a sultry sky  
When it asks no store of prophetic lore  
    To forecast that a tempest's nigh :—  
So silent awhile the Jews remained,  
    With lips compressed and passion restrained,  
Each keen and alert as a mastiff unchained  
    As he waits for his master's cry ;  
And all hearts were athrob for what should betide,  
    While every man glared on the friend at his side  
    With a fixt close-questioning eye.

Hard by the place of gathering  
The wanton Macedonian king

Had reared, in Heaven's despite,  
An alien altar ; and no hand  
Durst root it from the sacred land,  
For force nor usage could withstand

The usurper's lawless might.  
And thus—a piercing shame and sting—  
That fateful day the hated thing,  
All loyal hearts envenoming,  
Stood full in Israel's sight.

Then loud and fierce the Captain's voice  
In threatening tones was heard—  
“ Ye stubborn slaves, make instant choice,  
I speak no second word ;

Think ye the king of sea and land  
Sends but to parley, not command ?  
Come all—and thou, old man, come first ;  
Bring swine's flesh—aught your laws have cursed.”

Then, as by demon spurred,  
When all unmoved he saw them stand—  
Hot rage to frantic fury fanned—  
On his broad sword he laid his hand ;  
But not a Hebrew stirred.

Now shame upon the coward—  
Happy in this alone  
That only his foul infamy  
And not his name is known—

Shame on that nameless dastard  
Whose deed I now proclaim ;  
And unto him whose wrath sublime  
(A Phineas of this later time)  
Wrought righteous vengeance on the crime  
Be an undying name !

Before the eyes of Jew and Greek,  
As who would fain prime honour seek  
Of a new priestly line,  
There came a cringing Hebrew wretch  
And on the altar dared to stretch  
The sacrificial swine.  
O God of Israel, slumberest Thou ?  
Shall Thine own sons to idols bow  
And Thou be patient still—where now  
Is that red arm of Thine ?

Old Mattathias eyed the crowd  
A moment with disdain  
To see that monstrous deed allowed,  
And o'er his brow there swept a cloud  
Of noble rage and pain ;  
Then, looking up to Heaven, he vowed  
That blood should purge the stain.  
And as the strong fierce sentence fell  
The Hebrews heard their foemen's knell ;  
Needed no voice from Heaven to tell  
The blood would flow amain ;

For well they knew that nought would let  
The settled purpose of his threat,  
Where once that steadfast mind was set  
    There wont it to remain,  
No prayers could bribe it to forget,  
    No fear its fire restrain ;  
Old Mattathias never yet  
    Was known to speak in vain.

Nor lingered long the fell intent  
Whereon his burning soul was bent ;  
For sudden as the lightning-stroke  
That splinters some tall forest oak  
    In a loud summer storm,  
At once his voice in thunder spoke  
And the swift flash of fury broke  
    On that base grovelling form—  
“So,” cried he, “the apostate dies  
Who dares his fathers’ God despise !”—  
And, mingling with the sacrifice,  
Quenching the flame ere it could rise,  
    Gushed out the life-blood warm.

As when some spectre of the night  
Strikes the beholder with affright  
    And palsies every limb ;—  
He cannot move, he dare not cry,  
But glowers with fascinated eye  
    Upon the phantom grim ;—

Such terror did that onslaught strike  
On Pagan and on Jew alike.  
With shame and conscience-smitten awe  
The vacillating Hebrews saw  
    Their kinsman's stern appeal ;  
His pleading left no room for flaw  
    Who reasoned with sharp steel ;  
Nor sword to avenge their master's law  
Durst the cowed Macedonians draw,  
Slower the night's last snowflakes thaw  
    When morn's warm touch they feel,  
Than died their courage as they gazed  
Dumbstruck, confounded, and amazed,  
    Fronting such fiery zeal—  
To find at last one lingering trace  
Of manhood in that trampled race,  
    It had been less surprise  
If in some mouldered burying-place  
    The swaddled dead should rise,  
And anger clothe each bony face  
    And flash from the hollow eyes.

O holy Truth, what power is thine  
    The human heart to nerve,  
Strengthener of all who at thy shrine  
    And in thy battles serve ;  
Though falsehood mailed from heel to crest,  
And myriad-fold, thy fort invest,  
Who has thee for his bosom-guest  
    Shall never blench nor swerve.

Before brave Mattathias' eye,  
Blazing with holy jealousy  
For God's and Israel's sake,  
The Grecian warriors stood aghast,  
As on them—like a tempest-blast  
That sweeps some mountain-lake,  
When bellowing through a narrow rift  
It churns the waves and hurls the drift  
In many a twisted flake—  
So terrible, so wild, so swift  
His garnered fury brake.

Upon the Captain of the band  
Fell first the ruthless champion's brand ;  
He reeled and wallowed in the sand  
Unpitied and unmourned :  
Apelles was that Captain's name,  
Fated to live in evil fame  
Where Freedom still asserts her claim,  
And tyranny is scorned.  
Then on the startled Grecian crew  
Swift-bounding, lion-like, he flew,  
And one, split through the head, he slew,  
And one he dashed to ground ;  
So through the guard, to right and left  
Hewing his way, a path he cleft  
Up to the altar-mound ;  
Nor slacked his hand till stone by stone  
The accurséd heap lay overthrown ;—  
Then turned and faced the crowd alone,  
Darting his gaze around.

“Now, men of Israel,” he cried,  
“Stand forth who on JEHOVAH’s side  
    Will range yourselves with me !  
Will ye dare see His laws despised,  
Will ye to these uncircumcised  
    Still bend the unmanly knee ?  
Where Joshua’s conquering pennons waved,  
Where David every danger braved,  
And tribute wrung from kings enslaved,  
    Will ye be less than free ?  
Nay, up ! and from His people saved  
    To God shall glory be !—  
O Thou who in the ancient days  
To Israel’s sons didst ever raise  
    A saviour in their need,  
I feel Thy call within me now ;  
This vengeful ire, this burning brow,  
‘Tis Thou hast kindled them, ‘tis Thou  
Hast fired my heart, my tongue, to vow  
    That till this land be freed—  
This Sacred Land which Thou hast blest—  
And till I see her wrongs redrest,  
Nor eye shall sleep, nor arm shall rest,  
    Nor joys of life be mine ;  
What joy, what rest, what peace can be  
While men revile and rail on Thee,  
Yea, dare the awful Majesty  
    That shrouds Thy hallowed Shrine ?  
With filthy rites and orgies wild  
Thy holy precincts are defiled ;

Zion herself, Thy home, lies waste ;  
Her beauteous House, where Thou hadst placed  
Thy Name, with idols is debased ;

Thy recreant sons bow down  
To Astarté and Olympian Zeus,  
And shameless wear in festal use  
The bestial wine-god's crown !  
O God, our fathers' faithful God,  
Break Thou this impious tyrant's rod—

So shall our land's renown  
Revive ; and, cleansed from this foul stain,  
Sweet peace shall Zion see again  
The coming days unfold ;  
When on Thy barriers all in vain  
Her foes shall hurl their last disdain,  
And Thou, and Thou alone, shalt reign  
As in the days of old."

Then, lifting up on high his sword,  
As though he lent it to the LORD,  
He turned ; and, to the sky  
Pointing, he cried with mighty voice—  
" This day, this hour, with one accord,  
Ye sons of Israel, seal your choice  
Before God's holy eye !  
Our cause is His, His strength our aid ;  
Fear ye not, then, nor be dismayed.  
Let trumpets peal from every hill  
To sound the loud alarm,  
That every patriot's heart may thrill

With courage and devoted will,  
And all the land may arm ;  
Let beacon fires proclaim afar  
The tidings of a Sacred War,  
And instant prayer through all our coasts  
Rise up to the great LORD of hosts  
From whom all victories are.

All ye, JEHOVAH's badge who wear,  
His covenant-sign, stand forth and share  
The glorious task to do and dare,  
With me to dare and die ! ”

He spoke, and straightway led the van ;  
And to his standard, man by man,  
They flocked from far and nigh.  
First rallied to their father's side  
His noble sons, their nation's pride—  
While princely deeds in fame abide  
Their names shall still survive :—  
John, the old chieftain's eldest born ;  
Simon, whose name no tongue shall scorn  
Where Freedom's triumphs thrive ;  
Judas, whose conquests fill the page  
Of that grand Maccabean age ;  
The astute priest-soldier Jonathan ;  
And Eleazar “ Avaran,”  
First martyr of the five.

To follow with such leadership,  
Whose praises hung on every lip,  
Each loyal Jew would fain outstrip  
His keenest comrade's zeal ;

All hearts caught fire and wildly burned,  
As quick expectancy discerned  
    The dawn of Israel's weal.

As spreads the blaze when lightning strikes  
Some broad fen-wheatfield's ripened spikes,  
And crimsons all the boundary dykes,

    So sped the bold appeal ;  
From every corner of the land,  
With weapons such as eye or hand  
Could at a moment's call command,

    They swarmed tumultuously—  
“ War ! War ! ”—Let time mature the plan !  
Headlong from town and field they ran,  
Nor stayed their sudden arms to scan,

    But with one patriot cry  
As in the day of Midian  
Forward they flew, and war began  
    For God and Liberty.

## GEORGE AUGUSTUS SELWYN

*April 11, 1878*

PASS to thy rest, good soldier, true and tried,  
Thy rest how welcome, and how nobly won ;  
That rest for which thou secretly hast sighed  
As longs the labourer for the westering sun :  
Here wouldst thou none of it, too brave to shun  
One call of Duty, well content to bide  
The Master's summons. Now, thy labours done,  
He calls, and there is rest at eventide.  
There will be tears on some rough cheeks to-day,  
Such manly tears as on the perilous slope  
Men, in the silence that succeeds the fray,  
Shed o'er the leader of the forlorn-hope.  
Rest thou henceforth in Christ ; the final test  
Still waits, and God is just. Pass to thy rest.

# INCIDENTS OF THE ZULU CAMPAIGN

1879

## PREFATORY NOTE

THE manuscript of these verses was submitted to Major Chard, V.C., the hero of Rorke's Drift, on his return to England. He kindly sent me a carefully drawn diagram of the position, and remarked that the only divergence that he noticed from the precise facts of the case was in one unimportant detail, so slight that it did not, in his opinion, call for any alteration.

F. A.

## THE TWENTY-FOURTH AT ISANDHLÁNA

*January 22, 1879*

THEY come! they come! Now, Warwickshires, stir  
up your British blood!

Wave upon wave they pour, as when a river bursts  
its bank;

Resistless as a mountain-burn swirled down in winter-  
flood,

The dusky hordes sweep swiftly round:—they've  
turned the English flank.

What mettle you are made of 'tis a time to show the  
world;

You live in story, Twenty-fourth;—that trust you  
dare not waste;—

Remember “Chillianwallah,” on the colours there un-  
furled—

Those colours have been torn before, but never yet  
disgraced!

As when the hunters have drawn off a lion from his  
lair

Upon an open plat where he can neither hide nor  
flee;

And proudly he sets up his mane, and red his eye-  
balls glare,

And not a man of all his foes so fearless looks as  
he :—

Or, as in the mid ocean stands a lonely reef of rock,  
And the waters plunge around it, and the howling  
tempest sweeps,

But it stands in stubborn hardihood and stems the  
fiercest shock,

And hurls the surging billows back in wild and  
broken heaps :—

So, like that lion forced to bay—like that storm-beaten  
crag—

Awhile stood Pulleine 'midst his men, and held  
the foe in check ;

“Now, steady, lads !” the Colonel cried, and pointed  
to the flag—

“We'll keep those colours, Twenty-fourth, or we'll  
perish with the wreck !”

O mothers in your English homes, there's sorrow in  
the air ;

For there's many a brave English heart will beat  
its last to-day :

You will see no more those laughing eyes, nor smooth  
that golden hair,  
And the lips that took your parting kiss ere night  
will be trodden clay.

Brave lads! Ay, you will weep for them—for the  
heart must have relief;  
And a mother is a mother still, if she's something  
more beside:  
But methinks if you had seen them, that hard thorny  
bud of grief  
Would have burst into the fragrant bloom of patriotic  
pride.

As loud the crested surf rolls in upon an iron coast,  
And baffled staggers back, but leaves its foam upon  
the shore;  
So stormed those savage warrior-swarms around the  
British host,  
But of every wave advancing part returned again no  
more.

Stand steady, men! stand steady! They are more  
than ten to one:  
But what are odds to Britons? Think of Balaklava  
plain!  
Ay, in all lands, from the rising to the setting of  
the sun,  
Our arms have faced terrific odds; they can face  
them once again.

Great God of battles, help them now ! Thou, Thou alone, canst guard !

The ammunition's failing, and the fire's growing slack ;

And the ranks are in confusion, though they've yielded not a yard,

And, in ever-narrowing circle penned, they are fighting back to back.

Spirit of Duty, who in war dost ever brightest shine,  
Above the smoking carnage thou art soaring calm and free ;

Thou soldier's chiefest glory, thou immortal thing divine,

The foe can drain our best men's blood, but he cannot conquer thee !

“Here, Melvill !” cried brave Pulleine, “save the colours, if you can !”—

And he gave into his trusty charge the regimental flag—

“The day is lost—good-bye, good-bye—we'll fight to the last man ;

But they'll think of us in England when they see that riddled rag !”

The Lieutenant grasped the colours, and full furiously he spurred,

And the Zulus reeled to right and left as he hewed his passage through.

Then the Colonel's dauntless voice pealed out, like thunder, his last word—

“Fix bayonets, Twenty-fourth, and die as English soldiers do !”

Farewell, farewell, brave hearts ! the bitter end is come at length :—

See, the black and savage masses overwhelm our minished band !

See, they lift their comrades' corpses, and with more than human strength

They've hurled them on the bayonets, and are grappling hand to hand !

'Tis over !—all is over ! But they've sold their lives full dear,

For the swarthy dead are piled around in numbers none can tell ;

And, like a flowery islet in a wide and sullen mere,  
Yon narrow ridge of scarlet marks where the British heroes fell.

They sleep beneath the southern sky : and with her loveliest robe

Of verdure and fair fragrant shrubs kind Nature spreads their pall ;

And from their graves shall amaranth spring ; and round the fruitful globe

Its seeds on every wind shall float, and quicken where they fall.

And wherever in the days to come go forth our  
British troops  
To meet their country's foe in East or West or  
South or North,  
And all things seem against them, and the stoutest  
courage droops,  
They shall think of Isandhlána, and the gallant  
Twenty-fourth.

## THE DEFENCE OF RORKE'S DRIFT

*January 22-23, 1879*

LEONIDAS, Horatius—proud names in Greece and Rome—

Pitted against tremendous odds they stood, and scorned to fly :

Ay, ay ; but, men of England, we have heroes nearer home ;

We have our Chard and Bromhead, and their names shall never die.

Come, listen, let me tell once more the tale all England knows ;

All England—ay,—the wide world through—all nations near and far ;

How the day of dark disaster turned to splendour ere its close,

And a handful of true Englishmen rolled back the tide of war.

Calm slept the hazy sunlight on the hills around  
Rorke's Drift:—

Then rose a sound, a growing sound, a dull low-  
thundering tramp

Of hoofs in the southward distance: and spurring hard  
and swift,

Two horsemen came at a gallop. “Ho! what  
tidings from the camp?”

“To arms! to arms!” the riders cried. “No time  
for further news!

Look quick to your defences: they'll be here before  
you can—

Round yonder hill they come apace—you've not an  
hour to lose;

The camp is sacked, and the convoy are slaughtered  
to a man.”

Fast flew the rumour through the place, as fire in  
sun-scorched grass.

“Sergeant,” cried Gonville Bromhead, “see the  
Hospital secured!”

And forward the two horsemen spurred down to the  
river-pass,

Nor spoke, nor reined their foaming steeds, till they  
came where the ponts were moored.

Then breathless to the Commandant they told their  
hurried tale;

An Engineer Lieutenant he, the young intrepid  
Chard:

He heard, but never blenched his eye before their  
faces pale ;  
“Look to the ponts,” he calmly said ; “I go to place  
the guard.”

Ah, then was haste—not hurry—for our English heads  
are cool ;

And our Engineers are not the men stern Duty’s call  
to shirk ;

And their ears are quick to the lightest sound of  
military rule,

And the hour of deadliest danger is the hour of  
stadiest work.

With waggons and rough undergrowth a sudden fort  
was planned,

Loopholed the Hospital and Stores, and bonded wall  
to wall

With biscuit-tins and mealie-bags—whatever came to  
hand ;

And “Here,” said Chard, “we’ll hold our own, or  
here like soldiers fall !”

Full loud, I ween, had Vauban laughed to see that  
clumsy fort,

With sacks of grain for bastions, and parapets of tin ;  
But some by learned books, and some by sudden need,  
are taught ;

Boots not to ask which teaches best, but let those  
laugh who win.

And woe to him who comes too near that baby-palisade !

No panic there—no trumpet's blare, nor rattling roll  
of drum—

But every man is at his post, as calm as on parade ;—

Ha, steady now !—stand to your arms !—see yonder  
where they come !

As when a tropic squall has burst across the Indian Sea,  
The storm-clouds crash, and the steel-blue flash sets  
all the sky aflame,

So with incessant fusilade, and peals of furious glee,  
Right down upon that pigmy fort the black bat-  
talions came.

Then rang the British rifles with a music all their own,  
That sharp melodious unison to the soldier's ear so  
blithe ;

And at every ring of the deadly fire the Zulu ranks  
were mown,

As the summer fields are levelled by the swish of  
the gleaming scythe.

A moment's check—no longer—for the warrior-blacks  
are brave ;

Quick rallied are the broken ranks, and dauntless  
as at first

Against the loud-tongued fortress swirls again the  
headlong wave,

As though by sheer brute force and weight they  
would the rampart burst.

But brave, too, are our Engineers: upon their flag  
they bear

A legend plain and homely, won by many a daring  
deed:

For skill and courage through the world their praise  
is "Everywhere;"<sup>1</sup>

And ever to the front are they "where Right and  
Glory lead."

And brave, too, are our infantry: let France, let  
Russia tell

What English linesmen brought to bay against all  
odds can do:

These are the men whose fathers in Crimean battles  
fell,

Whose grandsires drove Napoleon's guard pell-mell  
at Waterloo.

Ay, there's history behind these men; there's pulsing  
in their veins

The blood of dauntless heroes who through flood  
and cannon's roar

Saved Lucknow, stormed old Delhi's gates, recon-  
quered India's plains,

And scathed the human devilry of murder-stained  
Cawnpore.

<sup>1</sup> "Ubique," and "Quo Fas et Gloria ducunt," are the mottoes  
of the Royal Engineers.

A score of times their rattling hail beat back the savage hosts :

You might have thought our Englishmen had each a hundred lives,

As you saw the bleeding, blackened forms stand dogged at their posts,

Like the fabled salamander which in hottest fire survives.

And hotter still the fire has grown ; from bush and rocky ledge,

In front, behind, on either side, fast pours the leaden storm :

And ever as new gaps are made in the thick-crowded wedge,

Reserves rush forward from the rear to swell the exhaustless swarm.

But steady still the rifles ring, and every bullet tells ;

And, whirlwind-like, the murky cloud now back, now forward sways ;

And all the heavens are lost in smoke, and loud with frantic yells ;

And still the rifles ring :—O God ! the Hospital's ablaze !

“The Hospital ! the Hospital !”—not for themselves that cry,—

But manly fear and sorrow swell in every hero's breast,

For there are sick and wounded there who helplessly  
must die :—

Poor wasps that could not fight nor fly, they've  
smoked them in their nest.

Now daylight fades, and deepening shades steal down  
on either host,

Yet through the uncertain gloaming still thick pours  
the wild attack—

As reckless sailors steer straight in upon an unknown  
coast

When the wind is up, and a fitful moon drives dim  
through the scudding rack.

Foes worthy of our steel and shot—a race of warriors  
born—

Behind their flimsy cowhide-shields, through showers  
of whistling lead,

Down into the red jaws of Fate with what high-stepping  
scorn

They dance across the pavement of the dying and  
the dead !

Straight in upon the rifles' mouths the naked madmen  
run ;

They grasp the British bayonets ; they will not be  
withstood ;

Bolder than lions, fierce as wolves—as though the  
tropic sun

Had burnt beyond the blackened skin into their very  
blood.

And now behind the Dragon Range the twilight waned  
and died,  
And friend from foe they could only know by the  
Hospital's lurid glare ;  
And the last faint spark gave way to the dark ; but our  
men stood side by side,  
For never an inch would the brave lads flinch ; and  
the dawn came and found them there.

What though it found them weak and worn—in  
languor and distress—  
Still safe on those beleaguered Stores the British  
colours waved :—  
So the day of Isandhlána closed in splendour and  
success,  
Our tarnished name shone bright again : and the  
colony was saved.

So may all English soldiers fight, till wars need rage no  
more,  
And those who live, live honour-crowned, and those  
who die, die hard ;  
And deep enshrined in England's mind be every man  
who bore  
The burden and the heat that day with Bromhead  
and with Chard !

## ON THE DEATH OF THE PRINCE IMPERIAL OF FRANCE

*June 1, 1879*

THROUGH decades nine of turbid change and chance,  
Since from thine ancient line the sceptre passed,  
What know'st thou not of Fortune's fickle blast,  
King-ruled, mob-ruled, imperial, conquered France ?  
Loud restless land of Passion and Romance,  
Is now the end ? Or is't the old bombast  
That hails Napoleon's death—the best and last—  
As pledge of lasting peace and sure advance ?  
The days to come will tell us. More secure  
Would be our hope, if in thy sons we saw  
A sterner sense of duty—self-command—  
And lowlier reverence for His righteous law  
Who holds all times, all nations, in His hand.  
Then might'st thou flourish, and thy peace endure.

ON THE ARRIVAL OF THE *ORONTES*  
WITH THE BODY OF THE PRINCE  
IMPERIAL

*July 11, 1879*

SEEST thou yon speck above the Southern verge  
Rise on the leaden sky in dim relief?  
Slowly her sails and huge black hull emerge :—  
Now, England, rise to meet with generous grief  
The hapless heir of thy old foemen's chief—  
Napoleon—once dread name of Europe's scourge,  
Sad symbol now of Glory vain and brief.  
Roll out, dull waves, roll out an empire's dirge,  
And bear him shoreward through this heaving lane  
Of flags half-masted, and heads bare and bowed ;  
While the great Duke's own guns<sup>1</sup> proclaim aloud  
Our reconciliation through a common pain ;  
For England's pride to-day, and France's stain,  
Lie buried in the last Napoleon's shroud.

<sup>1</sup> The flagship at Spithead which fired the minute-guns on the occasion was *The Duke of Wellington*.

## MISCELLANEOUS POEMS



## THE MAY OF 1879

### A SPRINGLESS YEAR

WHY lingerest thou, sweet Spring ? This many a day  
We've pined at thy delay ;  
Where are thy herald swallows ? where the breeze  
Should wake these slumbering trees ?  
'Twas never yet thy wont to palter thus  
And break thy troth with us.

Art thou still dreaming in some sunny cave  
Beyond the Southern wave ?  
Come ! Flora waits thee, all her petals furled  
In the dark underworld ;  
O come to her and us ! we miss thy smiles  
In these bleak Northern isles :

We miss the music of thy Zephyr wings  
Sweeping the *Æolian* strings  
In grove and coppice ; stiff and hoar the grass  
Mourns till thy footsteps pass ;  
The stubborn ash-buds still are black as death,  
Denied thy quickening breath :

The beeches, laden with their last year's dead,  
    Still rustle crisp and red ;  
Nor tasselled willow, nor lush chestnut-bud,  
    Shows stirring of the blood ;  
Nor honey-bees find promise of sweet lime  
    Or banks of purple thyme.

The brooks are foaming torrents, that should run  
    Gold-twinkling in the sun ;  
The little lambs on the fields' leeward edge  
    Crouch huddled in the hedge ;  
While from a naked elm the mother thrush  
    Pours her pathetic gush.

Ah, thou art hiding ; thou art not asleep,  
    For I have seen thee peep  
And shudder back before the pitiless storm  
    Into thy shelter warm ;  
Thou art but hiding, fearful to put forth  
    And brave this boisterous North :

Rude blusterer, he's overleapt the bound  
    Of his permitted ground ;  
Was't not enough to reign the winter long  
    But he must do thee wrong,  
With pinching frosts invading thy retreat  
    And blasts of arrowy sleet ?

O come at last, sweet Spring, return, return !  
    Unwrap this folded fern ;  
Come, pity the small building birds whose nests  
    Lie open to all guests ;  
The unfriendly hedges lend them not a leaf  
    To baulk the schoolboy thief.

Wilt thou not come ? April is gone, and May  
    Has shivered half away ;  
O come, take courage,—the usurper vile  
    Dare never face thy smile :  
Shall it be written that Midsummer came  
    And heard her sister's shame ?

## ROYAL OAK DAY

1879

YE merry fays who brew the sap,  
Have ye not met with some mishap?  
Has cruel Boreas pinched you all to death?  
No, sluggards, ye still idly wrap  
Yourselves in your snug winter-nap  
Among the stones these rugged roots beneath.

Awake, awake! The country-folk,  
Defrauded of their yearly joke,  
Will sore lament your laziness to-day;  
These eyes play false if on this oak  
One solitary leaf hath broke;—  
Have ye forgot the twenty-ninth of May?

Nestled within your cosy crypt,  
All care your selfish minds has slipt  
For our rude customs: oakless going hence  
Small boys to-day will all be nipt,  
And every persecutor whipt;  
So both alike will rue your indolence.

O sleepy fays, think what befel  
Prince Charles that day at Boscobel!  
Had your forefathers so belated been,  
Alas for England! who can tell  
But the bare boughs had creaked her knell,  
And good Victoria never had been Queen!

## ON THE GRAVE OF CHARLES HEWER WRIGHT

IN CROSTHWAITE CHURCHYARD, KESWICK

1878

A strong rare personality : a man  
Who knew these Cumbrian hills as few have known,  
All nooks and windings of their complex plan ;  
Had memories stored in well-nigh every stone,  
And voices heard which spoke to him alone :  
In mind and body both as fit a guide  
As ever tracked a path, or climbed a mountain-side.

I see, as first I saw him in my youth ;  
Though thrice ten years have flown, still fresh and  
warm  
The picture lingers of that garb uncouth  
Made not for show but use, that wiry form  
Hardened by manful toil in sun and storm,  
And under shaggy brows that eagle eye  
Keen to all sights of earth, all changes of the sky.

How oft in weather fair and foul alike  
With him we roamed these mountains, stood with him  
On the thick-shrouded top of Scawfell Pike,  
And heard below the thunder rumbling grim ;  
And when out of the tempests' angry rim  
The blue fire darted with sharp crackling hiss,  
Its livid gleam betrayed black Mickledore's abyss.

'Twas he who taught our inexperienced feet  
And swimming heads to dare that mighty wedge,  
Sharp, steep-roofed wall of Red Tarn's dark retreat,  
Helvellyn's dizziest access—Striding Edge—  
And showed us where beneath the treacherous ledge  
Gough's faithful dog, couched foodless on the stones,  
Three lonely months kept guard by his dead master's  
bones.

With him at midnight through the silent street  
Of sleeping Keswick we have passed, and seen  
The sunrise from old Skiddaw; heard the bleat  
Of the first-wakened sheep, while through the keen  
And dewy dawn from upland and ravine  
Came chuckling grouse-calls; and the lake below  
Gleamed like a golden plain with palaces of snow.

Then, oh the fairy scene ! when, one by one,  
Those fleecy domes uplifted ; and beneath,  
Touched by the calm light of the early sun,  
Their level bases rich with fern and heath,  
Lay Derwent's islands ; and each vaporous wreath  
Hung canopied above them, glittering shrouds  
That slowly rose, to melt into the opal clouds.

And well, too, I recall a pitchy night  
When, with three brothers and that trusty guide,  
I crossed Ullswater. All the lake was white,  
And wind and wave our labouring oars defied ;  
Yet scarce we dreamed that danger could betide,  
For Wright was at the tiller, and he knew  
The shifty tricks and turns of every blast that blew.

What memories thy name to me hath brought,  
Friend of my boyhood, friend of those I loved,  
Of father and of brothers :—dear the thought  
Of every spot where long ago we roved :  
By distance now (and two by death) removed,  
Still are we linked, through all life's cares and ills,  
By each memorial glimpse of these unchanging hills.

Nor may I unrecorded leave the fame  
Of thy wide knowledge,—knowledge both of men  
And Nature. Thine no literary claim ;  
What others have discoursed with learned pen  
Thou knew'st by heart : all mysteries of the glen  
And of the ridgy mountains,—how they came,  
How time, and ice, and fire evolved their glorious frame.

If any man knew Cumberland, 'twas thou ;  
Who else could track her perilous ways obscure,  
Or scale the wild crags of her cloudiest brow,  
With eye so steady, or with foot so sure ?  
Or who like thee, we questioned, could endure,  
Oft as, dead beaten with the day's fatigue,  
We saw thee fresh as who had idly strolled a league.

Who knew these mountains if thou knew'st them  
not?

Nor only their stern features: most minute  
That insight was. To thee each secret spot  
Divulged its treasures:—"Here the Woodsias root  
In the damp fissures,"—"Here a single shoot  
Of the Germanic Spleenwort once I found:—"—  
So would thy ready tongue instruct a whole day  
round.

Nor less hadst thou of choice companionship  
Unusual range; masters who bore the palm  
In every walk of science,<sup>1</sup> from thy lip  
Drank in with deference that peculiar charm  
Of first-hand observation which no qualm  
Of theorising prejudice can fail  
To yield to: stubborn facts more than hard words  
avail.

Of strange adventure, too, hadst thou vast store;  
And, as we rested in the noontide heat,  
Tales would'st thou tell of dreadful Mickledore  
Or of the Pillar Rock, or would'st repeat  
Some hairbreadth 'scape, when through the blind-  
ing sleet,  
The fells snowed up, and every mark effaced,  
Thy native instinct found a pathway through the  
waste.

<sup>1</sup> e.g. Lyell, Murchison, Hooker, Sedgwick.

But thou art gone : no more on Kirkfell side,  
Or by Will Ritson's ingle, shall we hear  
Thy pleasant voice, old friend, unequalled guide,  
Or see that face of never failing cheer  
To us so humorous, though to some austere,  
For toil and storm had ploughed their furrows deep  
Like torrent-beds scored out in some rough stony steep.

Ay, thou art gone :—gone whither, He knows best  
Who made thee. Strange to us who knew thee here  
Comes it e'en now to think of thee at rest  
Who never restedst in thy first career  
Of earthly duty. Hast thou found some sphere  
Of higher service on those lovelier hills  
Where Christ Himself is guide,—which God's own  
glory fills?

Peace to thy soul! with reverence unfeigned  
I breathe that heartfelt prayer. Oh, could I hope  
That I, a priest of Nature's Lord ordained,  
As thou of Nature, in the grander scope  
Of this great office might no longer grope  
With faltering feet; but guide, like thee, my flock  
Up to the Living Fount, up to the Enduring Rock!

## DERWENTWATER

THOU loveliest water (so without rebuke  
I hail thee) of a lovely sisterhood,—  
From Portinscale to where the brawling brook  
Brings down from Scafell's mountain-magnitude  
Their daily tax to thy imperial flood,—  
Deep in my memory fixt thy every look  
Is stored with feeling for the passing mood  
Of passion or of rest; whether each nook  
Of the green islands in thy waveless glass  
Sparkle inverted; or swift-changing lights  
Chequer thy hills; or from the purple mouth  
Of Borrowdale dark clouds in thickening mass  
Roll down to tell us that the gusty South  
Holds revelry on Glaramara's heights.

## STYHEAD TARN

THE wind is up on Styhead Pass ;  
The Tarn, but now a sheet of glass,  
Lifts up its myriad heads in fear  
Listening as nearer and more near  
Sweeps inland up the western vale  
The challenge of the coming gale.  
Aha, a fight ! in fury blind  
They clash together, wave and wind :—  
Unequal contest ! from the sea  
The wind comes flushed with victory,  
Where scarce an hour ago in wrath  
He flogged the Atlantic into froth ;  
Then woe betide the little lake !  
Well may its puny waters quake,  
And white with fear in broken rank  
Fly pell-mell to the eastern bank.  
Now roars the blast in conquering pride,  
And, eddying round, from side to side  
The waves in wild confusion sweeps  
In tumbling surf and shapeless heaps ;  
In vain they fret, in vain resist,  
He grasps and shakes them into mist,

Or—twisted from the seething flood—  
In spiry pillars drives the scud  
That shivers into smoky spray,  
Or down the Pass is whirled away.  
Have pity, heavens, for brake nor barn  
Gives shelter by the lonely Tarn ;  
And here are human wanderers four,  
Tight-knapsacked and storm-beaten sore,  
With worse to come, for round yon bluff  
Waits entertainment still more rough,—  
Above, your fury in their teeth,  
The expectant precipice beneath.  
Ah, happy he who safe and sound  
Holds his mild course on level ground ;  
But happier, whose rude strength derides  
Storm, and the Gable's shaggy sides ;  
Happiest of all, who finds a bed  
This blustering night at Wastdale Head !

## IN BORROWDALE

Two lazy hours I've lain reclined  
A passive pupil of the scene,  
Till every line of grey and green  
Has left its picture on my mind ;

And well I know that, vague and loose  
As were my thoughts these idle hours,  
Their rest gave play to subtler powers  
And coming days will find their use :

Whatever beauties Nature hath,  
Not in the sight is chiefest gain,  
But in the memories that remain,  
The harvest of the aftermath ;

And hence I know that, as I lay  
Those quiet hours devoid of thought,  
Into my inner self were wrought  
Pure pleasures for some duller day.

## WORDSWORTH

WORDSWORTH, with late repentance England owns  
The wealth of thy too long neglected mine ;  
With purer taste wide sympathies combine  
To vindicate thee, whom this age enthrones  
Prince among peers whose genius laid the stones  
And built the fabric of a worthier shrine  
Than Art had reared since Milton's voice divine  
Struck her last lofty note. In deeper tones  
Didst thou win back the Muse whence far astray  
She wandered in dull streets, 'mid brain-spun themes  
And musty town-talk, to the light of day,  
And sweet fresh Nature with her hills and streams  
All vocal with high teaching, and bright dreams  
Of things that with this life pass not away.

## WORDSWORTH'S GRAVE

IN GRASMERE CHURCHYARD

Not in the vaulted aisle which holds in trust  
England's invisible glory, proud to guard  
With lofty epitaph and sculptured bust  
Her choicest sons, sage, warrior, statesman, bard—  
Not there, where all's conventional, grey, and hard ;  
Where comes no freshening sweep of mountain-gust,  
And flowers are none, and the hot stones are scarred  
By ceaseless trampling o'er the slumbering dust—  
Not there !—In more congenial spot he sleeps,  
In this loved vale, where sight and sound are rife  
With all sweet influences that shaped his life ;  
And round him rise the old familiar steeps,  
And his own Rotha murmurs all day long  
The music that so oft inspired his song.

## A VOICE FROM THE MOUNTAIN TOPS

On dwellers in this mountain-land  
How many thoughts arise  
Which simplest men may understand  
Have they but hearts and eyes.  
And one such thought I well believe,  
To those who wisdom seek,  
Comes morn by morn, and eve by eve,  
Down from yon silent peak.

The summits catch the morning fires,  
They catch the sunset glow ;  
But never to such hue aspires  
The workday world below.  
So have I seen on Skiddaw's head  
Our human life displayed—  
The rosy flush of morning spread,  
Alas, how soon to fade !

The glory died ; the day crept down  
Where sin and sorrow lurk,  
The common day of field and town  
That lights man to his work ;

But when the working-hours were done  
Another glory came ;  
Again went up the crimson sun,  
And lit his beacon-flame.

So to our early life is lent  
Hope's radiance glad and bright ;  
Through manhood we must toil, content  
With God's plain useful light.  
But unforgotten is the flush,  
And still our hope will yearn  
That in the solemn evening's hush  
The glory may return.

## THE WILD DOG OF ENNERDALE

THOUGH the mists and the storm seem to revel alone  
On the grey sullen rocks of this echoing dale,

I can fancy each stone  
Has a voice of its own,  
Every cliff and ravine its traditional tale.

Fleecy ghosts, if I err not, are thronging the air ;  
For here was wrought murder (all records it breaks)

Which for turmoil and scare  
Will forever compare  
With the darkest deeds done in this land of the Lakes.

Let me tell you the tale of the Ennerdale Pest ;  
And I haste to premise—it was only a dog,

Though the old folks invest  
Their mysterious guest  
With all terrible shapes, like things seen through the fog.

Some said 'twas a bogey ; some stoutly averred  
'Twas a tiger—they knew by his stripes at first glimpse ;  
While others preferred  
A still uglier word,  
And declared 'twas the Devil, or one of his imps.

And no wonder they questioned his earthly descent,  
For sound he ne'er uttered of bark or of growl ;  
    Fear nor passion found vent  
    As he silently went  
Flitting ghostly and soft as a night-hunting owl.

But however names differed, in this all agreed—  
Dog, bogey, or tiger, or demon, or elf—  
    That he managed to feed  
    On the pick of the breed,  
Left the carcase, but got the tit-bits for himself.

Night by night two fat sheep were his epicure feast,  
Just the jugular blood and a snatch of the steak ;  
    And his raids were increased  
    Till the ravenous beast  
Was a terror from Kirkfell to Ennerdale Lake.

So the war was declared, and with pitchfork and gun  
The whole terrified country was up on the scent ;  
    And they'd many a run  
    Long past set of the sun,  
But the faster they followed, the faster he went ;

They'd muskets and pistols, they'd swanshot and ball,  
They'd collies and lurchers and curs, and what not ?  
    For the dogs great and small  
    They impounded them all ;  
But he snapped the dogs' legs, and he laughed at the  
    shot.

All work was at standstill, all shared in the harm,  
The cows went unmilked, and the fields were un-  
gleaned,  
While in shieling and farm  
All men talked with alarm  
Of the villainous deeds of the Ennerdale Fiend.

From the top of the hills to the flat of the coast  
Folks drank his confusion, and dreamt of his feats ;  
Like a horrible ghost  
Every thought he engrossed  
From the foot of the Gable to Cockermouth Streets.

Then, then—when the panic was just at its height,  
When fancy had passed all supportable bounds,  
When at fall of the night  
Women fainted with fright,  
And the children all screamed at the tiniest sounds—

O Money, magician for good or for ill,  
O omnipotent spell of a liberal purse !  
It was thine to instil  
Both the pluck and the will,  
It was gold that got rid of the Ennerdale curse ;

For there came from Whitehaven this word : Saith  
John Russell,  
“ Go, scour the country for sturdier hounds,  
Dogs of courage and muscle.  
Come stir, lads, and bustle ;  
Who kills the marauder, I'll give him ten pounds.”

Ah, where was the dalesman that bait to resist?  
By the score, through all weathers—in thunder or fog,  
    In moonlight or mist—  
    They repaired to the tryst,  
Watching early and late for the murderous dog.

Now had I the pen of a Scott I'd set down  
(If I happened to know them, and didn't lack space)  
    All the men of renown  
    From farm, village, and town,  
Who came to the front in that wonderful chase :

There were Mossop of Thornholme, and Rothery, and  
    Lamb,  
Will Jackson of Swinside, and Steel of Birkmoss—  
    But here stranded I am,  
    For I don't choose to sham,  
And true history leaves us here quite at a loss.

Then the scurry, the dodging, the tricks to entrap—  
To depict them quite futile the effort would be ;  
    Should I try, all the map  
    From the ridge of Scarf Gap  
Would be scribbled and scored to the Irish Sea.

I could tell of a Sunday—all days were alike—  
And the watchers were out on their everyday search,  
    When they happened to strike  
    On the trail of the tyke,  
And the hunt clattered by close to Ennerdale Church.

Now the morning was wet, but the sermon was dry ;  
And in spite of all discipline, penance or birch,  
    The whole lot, Low and High,  
Started off in full cry,  
And the parson<sup>1</sup> himself wasn't left in the lurch.

I could tell of a day when the game was afoot—  
They had found him in Hopehead on Kinniside Fells—  
    And they chevied the cute  
    And untirable brute  
While the Screes of Wastwater re-echoed their yells :

View Halloo ! He'd doubled. Across Stockdale moor,  
Through Calder and Seascale he led them a rig ;  
    Almost down to the shore  
    He was still to the fore  
When all traces were lost in the sandhills at Drigg.

But next day came the shout from a northward  
    ravine,  
And the Knockmurton shepherds were up on his  
    track ;  
    In Lamplugh and Dean  
    The big scoundrel was seen,  
And he thrice crossed the Marron, and thrice crossed  
    it back.

<sup>1</sup> The Rev. Mr. Ponsonby.

Then with cannibal scent, when the light was half spent,  
The pack caught the cue from a southerly breeze,  
    And ahead they all went  
    Over Cleator and Dent,  
Round by Egremont down to the sea at St. Bees.

But the end came at last. For at sunrise one morn  
In a field he lay sleeping as still as a log,  
    Till with hound and with horn  
    They invaded the corn—  
Then a bound and a rush, and away went the dog.

Through Stockhow and Rowrah he headed the run,  
And the wild cheers resounded in Arlecdon mines,  
    For the end had begun—  
    He had turned—he was done—  
And they hemmed him dead beat in the Eskat-wood  
    lines.

His last hour was come ; he could only die game,  
For lucky Jack Steel was well up with the hounds ;  
    And with one steady aim  
    Jack achieved deathless fame,  
Bagged the Ennerdale monster, and Russell's ten pounds.

But, alas for all greatness ! What fame can escape ?  
The local bards sang, and the newspapers puffed ;  
    And the world stood agape  
    Where the terrible shape  
Glared on, with his last grin immortalised—stuffed.

So, forty years after, I saw him adorning  
The sixpenny show of the late Mr. Hutton ;  
There he stood, night and morning,  
A practical warning  
To all lovers of raw illegitimate mutton.

The museum broke up, and the monster broke down ;  
Discarded, moth-eaten, in shame and in squalor,  
From the foot to the crown  
The small boys of the town  
Smashed him up, and the world retains only his collar.

So perish all gourmands ! The moral is brief :—  
Check your appetite ; eat your chops lawfully drest,  
Lest you fall into grief  
For a gluttonous thief,  
And get otherwise stuffed like the Ennerdale Pest.

NOTE.—The historical authority for the above, except the last four stanzas, was a paper published in Dickinson's "Cumbriana." The writer stated that the details of his description were given from his own recollections, supplemented by those of Mr. Steel and others who took part in the hunt. He further stated that the villain of the piece was "a smooth-haired dog of a tawny mouse-colour with dark streaks, apparently a cross between mastiff and greyhound"; that "his depredations began in May 1810"; that "in the five months of his Ennerdale campaign he destroyed nearly 300 sheep and lambs"; and that "his dead carcase weighed 8 imperial stones."

The said carcase, very much the worse for wear, but quite bearing out the truth of this description, still occupied a prominent place in Hutton's Museum at Keswick in 1848, but how much longer I do not know.—F. A.

## ON THE NAMES OF TWO CUMBERLAND MOUNTAINS

### I

#### “ROBINSON”

##### ONE OF THE NEWLANDS RANGE

HAST thou a poet's mind, an artist's eye?  
Take thou advice, and walk these Cumbrian dales  
Unquestioning; and when thy knowledge fails  
Let thine imaginative soul supply  
Names to the mountains. Ask no further why.  
This only will I tell thee: there prevails  
A nomenclature here which dead as nails  
Would make thee faint at every new reply.  
See'st thou yon glorious mass, steep-scarped and wild,  
A thing of grandeur to be limned or sung?  
Go—sing, paint, climb it! but restrain thy tongue  
From asking of the vulgar how 'tis styled,  
Lest from thy swooning soul the cry be wrung,  
“No! this is bathos pure and undefiled.”

## II

## “HIGH STREET”

HE earned high rank among the Malaprops  
Whose fancy coined this unmelodious name  
(The mountain's insult, and its author's shame),  
Redolent of smoke and haberdashers' shops,  
And roaring traffic, and slow-lounging fops :—  
Thou rugged monster, o'er whose mighty frame  
I've toiled to-day, and seen go down in flame  
The sun behind a hundred mountain-tops—  
Had he who dubbed thee seen, as I have seen,  
Bleawater, and that perpendicular mass  
That frowns above it ; or the Nan Bield Pass ;  
Or Thornthwaite Crag ? No, he was dropt, I ween,  
Out of the skies on thy long summit, green  
With levels of interminable grass.

## GAELIC NAMES

STRONACHLACHAR ! Ballachulish !  
There's a cracker for your jaws !  
Were there ever names more foolish,  
Less conformable to laws ?  
To pronounce them quite outstrips  
All the art of Southron lips.

Minds distraught might question whether  
Bloody-minded Celtic chiefs  
Put these awful words together  
To enhance their clansmen's griefs—  
Made them say, for certain crimes,  
“Stronachlachar” fifty times.

Till the thumbscrew was invented  
What worse torture could be found ?  
Sure the hardiest wretch repented  
Ere the fiftieth time came round,  
And to virtue kept more close  
Rather than repeat the dose.

We who read them at a distance  
One by one the letters scan ;  
Spell them, not without assistance ;  
Speak them seldom as we can :  
Fifty times ! The dearest vice  
Were too dear at such a price.

## TO THE YEW-TREE

IN DARLEY DALE CHURCHYARD, DERBYSHIRE

OLD yew, what thought can measure back thy years,  
Or guess whose hand within these sacred bounds  
Planted and consecrated thee with tears  
Where slept his dead beneath their new-made  
mounds ?

What generations of poor mortal man  
Since then have lain within thine eyeless gaze ;  
Who furthest had outstretched life's common span <sup>1</sup>  
A very babe to thine unnumbered days !

Thou king of yews ! yea, who disputes thy crown ?  
For though there be of more stupendous girth  
Their walls are ruined ; none of like renown  
With bole unmaimed survives in British earth :

While dynasties have risen and decayed  
Here in God's Acre thou hast silent stood  
Careless of time, by tempests undismayed,  
A tower impregnable of living wood.

<sup>1</sup> One tombstone records a death at the age of 102, and the Burial Register has another at 106.

Majestic tree ! alas, to vulgar minds  
How unsuggestive of the ages flown !  
They come, and wonder, and pass by; nor finds  
One thought a place but of thy bulk alone ;

Nor lingers in the annals of the Dale,  
Or in our people's legendary lore,  
Trustworthy hint whereon to build the tale,  
By safe conjecture, of those days of yore.

Yet may the imaginative mind create  
What various fortunes marked thine age-long growth :  
What meetings, partings, grief, and love, and hate,  
What secret crimes, what pangs of sundered troth.

Beneath the welcome covert of thy boughs  
A thousand years of village life have passed ;  
Here childhood sported, youth made lovers' vows,  
Old age found rest, and all a grave at last.

Sir John of Darley<sup>1</sup> knew thee ; in thy shade  
The Norman masons wrought their moulded stones ;  
Here turned to dust gay foresters are laid ;  
Thy roots have wandered among Saxon bones.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The knight whose effigy lies beneath the S. transept window and who held the royal manor of Darley under Edward II.

<sup>2</sup> Darley had a priest and a church when the Domesday Survey was made in 1081-86 ; a Saxon stone is built into the external wall between the porch and the tower, and a fragment of a large cross like those at Bakwell and Eyam was found when the church was restored in 1853 ; it is figured in vol. 8 of the *Derbyshire Archaeological Journal*, and is now in the Weston Park Museum at Sheffield.

Thy stubborn wood through many a Pagan shield  
 Drove its resistless passage ; thou perchance  
 Didst arm the archers who on Crecy field  
 Rained havoc on the chivalry of France.

Fair Agnes Rollesley <sup>1</sup> with thy leaves of gloom  
 Wreathed her lord's bier ; thou heard'st the last  
 farewell  
 Oft as men bore to his ancestral tomb  
 Some Milward, Wendesley, or Collumbell.

And through thy darkness moaned the heated air  
 When Death held carnival,<sup>2</sup> and one by one  
 Who to the pit their hideous burden bare  
 Themselves were borne ere sank another sun :

Ah then, what sounds unwonted,—sudden vow,  
 Mad laughter, blasphemous despairing cry,  
 Vague prayer from lips that never prayed till now,  
 Went up discordant to the lurid sky !

Full oft white-glistening choir and vested priest,  
 With cross uplifted and low-chanted psalm,  
 Wending their churchward way in fast or feast  
 Felt the dumb influence of thy changeless calm.

<sup>1</sup> Whose elegant figure is portrayed on an altar-slab in the N. transept. There are monuments in the church to all the families mentioned in the last line of the same stanza : Sir Thomas Wendesley, who fell in the battle of Shrewsbury (1403), appears to have been buried at Bakewell, where his effigy in full plate armour is to be seen in the Vernon Chapel.

<sup>2</sup> The “sweating sickenes” of 1551, followed by the plague of 1557–58, recorded in the Burial Register.

Nor less, when beauty was divorced from awe,  
And factious zeal had humbled Church and Throne,  
In thy stern aspect the grim Roundhead saw  
The black and joyless image of his own.

That sullen frenzy passed :—both Church and State  
Emerged triumphant from the civil strife ;  
And loyal minds once more could contemplate  
In thee our monarchy's perennial life :

And anglers loitering late by Derwent's side  
Heard Darley bells ring in the happier times ;  
And up from Matlock, as the cadence died,  
And down from Winster came responsive chimes :

Right gladly rang they, for that day unmatched  
Restored our king, and healed the nation's sores ;  
And dim with joy was many an eye that watched  
Its last light die behind the Stanton moors.

And change on change has followed ; age on age,  
Each filled with circumstance, rolls slowly by ;  
And ending here their shortlived pilgrimage  
The dalesfolk in their nameless myriads lie.

Weak minds there are whose superstitious fear  
Peoples thy gloom with ghostly shapes of dread,  
Weird visitants from some malignant sphere,  
Or restless spirits of the untimely dead :

Or morbid fancy sees at peep of morn  
 Round thy huge trunk the fairies break their dance :—  
 More solid truth be mine ! Thou hast outworn  
 A hundred decades of the world's advance.<sup>1</sup>

To me thy patriarchal form brings thought  
 Of centuries linked in one historic bond ;  
 Of men who lived and sorrowed, joyed and wrought,  
 And still are living in some life beyond.

How fit thy place hard by this ancient pile  
 Where the One Faith through everychance and change  
 Has held her lamp unquenched, though dimmed awhile,  
 Far as the Christian thought can backward range :—

Has held, and shall hold ; for what powers of ill  
 Can thwart the Eternal ? Whatsoe'er betide,  
 God's holy Ark, bearing her Pilot still,  
 Shall the fell fury of all storms outride.

Even so, old tree, thou standest sound and firm,  
 Clothed in new green with each returning Spring ;  
 Nor dare imagination fix the term  
 When British yews shall own another king :

<sup>1</sup> The age of the tree is purely a matter of speculation : the "2000 years" credited to it in the local guidebooks represent the estimate of Mr. J. R. Jackson of the Kew Gardens. I have adopted a more modest (probably too modest) figure. Parts of a Roman villa were unearthed some sixty years ago a few yards west of the yewtree.

Nay, rather, in her dreams she sees thee last  
A life unquenched, defiant of decay,  
Till o'er thy head peals out the final blast  
And every shattered grave gives up its prey.

A SUPPLEMENT TO WORDSWORTH'S  
"LEGEND OF OKER HILL IN  
DARLEY DALE"

SPIRIT of Wordsworth, pardon, if demands  
Of later knowledge tempt my rustic skill  
To tell the sequel. Still beneath the Hill,  
Hedged by grey-lichened walls, their birthplace <sup>1</sup> stands  
Who set those sycamores, clasped trembling hands  
And parted, each to work his several will  
As Fortune might adjudge for good or ill,  
And took their devious ways to distant lands.  
Then Fortune smiled on one, on one she frowned :  
And lo, the years her whimsical decree  
Have doubly sealed : for while this brother found  
Wealth and success, to that were both denied ;  
And by some subtle law of sympathy  
One lone tree lives, its fellow pined and died.

<sup>1</sup> Snitterton Hall.

## MOCK BEGGAR CASTLE

IN THE CRATCLIFFE ROCKS, DERBYSHIRE

ABOVE the wooded steeps of Birchover  
Rises a mighty pile of gritstone rocks  
Shaped by Time's teeth, or Earth's convulsive shocks,  
Or freak of ghostly-skilled artificer,  
To rude rectangular forms that cheat the eye  
With semblance of a mansion. Thither, in quest  
Of alms or food, have hungry wanderers pressed  
As the false chimneys towered against the sky ;  
But coming, only found a hermitage,  
And on its lowly front—His arms stretched wide—  
An old-world carving of The Crucified.  
No food was there, nor alms ; yet who may gauge  
The thoughts that on their weary hearts were shed  
Of Him who had not where to lay His head ?

## DEPEDALE WOOD, DERBYSHIRE

IN SPRING AND SUMMER

1

FLOWERLESS? nay, unmerited the taunt;  
You come too late. True, in this lovely dell  
Few Summer-plants their gaudy liveries flaunt:  
Come in fresh Spring, here all her favourites dwell;  
The hyacinth hangs here her purple bell,  
And rarer blooms make this their special haunt—  
Pale toothwort and the green-flowered moschatel.  
Neither of delicate fragrance is there want  
Nor tenderest grace; under the budding trees  
Blue violets nestle, and dispute the air  
With banks of primrose; here are orchises  
And vetchlings, and on many a dripping ledge  
Gold saxifrage; and, mixed with oxlips rare,  
Anemones gem all the meadow's edge.

II

You ask too much of Nature. In her chime  
Is no unmeaning note, she cannot err;  
Vainly and foolishly you seek in her,  
When Summer's here, the gladness of her prime.

Her life, like ours, has its permitted time  
Of laughter when the sap begins to stir :  
Grave cares o'ertake us, and then seldom  
We seek the frolic and the pantomime.  
Call you this failure ? mark this pendulous thing  
That hides among the violet's darkened leaves ;  
'Twas once a joyous blossom, and contains  
What will be blossoms in another Spring,  
Ripening, till then, through many steamy eves  
And morning suns, its inconspicuous grains.

## FLOOD ON THE TRENT

LONG EATON, 1875

'TWAS the 19th of October. Our church-bells were  
newly hung  
(So in memory the date securely dwells),  
And the men were ready at the ropes for the first peal  
to be rung,  
For the priest had come to dedicate the bells.

Then the rain began in earnest. But the priest got  
through his work ;  
And the bells rang out their warning in the air  
That, henceforward, if the people their devotions  
meant to shirk,  
They should not forget the Parish Church was there.

But the rain, it seemed, had come to stay ; and through  
the livelong night  
It continued pouring pitilessly down,  
Till the roads were like a mill-race, and by dawn of  
morning light  
It had captured half the doorsteps in the town.

And from dawn to dusk a second day, with growing  
force and sound,  
And from dusk to dawn it fell in solid sheets ;  
It was bursting through the drain-pipes, it was tearing  
up the ground,  
Digging holes at all the corners of the streets.

'Twas a night to be remembered, not a time to go to  
bed ;  
Men were watching full of restlessness and fear,  
For the angry sky was roaring, loud and moonless,  
overhead,  
And the river sounding nearer and more near.

Now the river's voice was ominous, for none the fact  
could blink  
That it ought not to be audible at all,  
Since the houses lay a measured mile above the nearest  
brink,  
And the railway ran between them like a wall.

But again the sullen morning broke, and the mystery  
was cleared :  
As far as the astonished eye could strain  
All bounds had vanished utterly, and the Thrumpton  
woods appeared  
Like an island in the wide and stormy main ;

For the Charnwood Forest rainfall had come racing  
down the Soar,

And the Derwent brought the soakings from the peat  
With Wye's white waters mingled, rushing streamlets  
by the score,

And Trent's vast volume made the tale complete ;

And, to crown the wild confusion, the great ballast-  
holes were brimmed

By the bursting of the Erewash Canal :—

Such a deluge drowned the country as few fancies  
could have limned,

Fewer eyes had ever seen, or ever shall.

Then, as evening neared, the sobbing skies dried up  
their baleful flow,

And there struggled out a late and lurid sun ;

And the blushing clouds lit up the watery wilderness  
below

As ashamed of all the mischief they had done.

But their penitence availed us not ; the night was full  
of scares,

While a rolling sea, tumultuous and brown,  
Was washing through the windows, and climbing up  
the stairs,

Of our cruelly invaded little town.

So, when the dreary dawn crept up, we launched our  
little boat

On a mission through the swamped and tossing  
streets;

And lo, the place was captured : all the furniture afloat  
Disporting in rude acrobatic feats ;

And while pigs and poultry greeted us from bedrooms  
overhead,

Human fingers from amidst the seething mess  
Stretched out, and lowered baskets to receive our dole  
of bread :—

Oh, the bakers had to sweat that day, I guess.

And, steering over farm-yard gates in the destroyer's  
track,

We heard of missing cows and smothered sheep ;  
And saw the Summer's harvest lost, where many a new-  
built stack

Stood soaking in the flood a fathom deep.

And on and on our boat careered through hedgetops  
almost hid ;

And, where the trains two days before had run,  
Were sleepers pointing skywards the twisted rails amid,  
As though a second Chaos had begun.

Surely, the clouds have consciences ; for evidence we  
found

Of their deep though ineffectual remorse,  
In the countless pools of muddy tears that still be-  
slimed the ground

When the following year had finished half its course.

Well ! life is short, and words are nought ; so here I'll  
dry my pen,

But we shan't forget the lively days we spent ;  
Nor shall we greatly envy those who see the like again  
Of those rollicking vagaries of the Trent.

## ON THE CORNISH COAST

IN memory's inmost niche be ye installed,  
Ye Cornish cliffs, and these rich-jewelled seas  
Now sapphire pure, now glancing emerald  
And amethyst, as wills the passing breeze ;  
These caverned heights and fern-clad crevices,  
These gleaming rocks gold-mantled, purple-palled,<sup>1</sup>  
And these jagg'd reefs whereon the fortresses  
Uprose, that once the Atlantic surge outwalled.  
Nor less the grandeur of these iron coasts  
When wintry waves before the tempest bounding  
Rave round the headlands with unearthly screech,  
And climb the bulwark-steeps, far inland sounding  
Like the artillery of Titanic hosts,  
And with sad wreckage strew the mangled beach.

<sup>1</sup> *i.e.* clothed, as so frequently, with bright yellow lichen and myriads of mussels.

## TRURO CATHEDRAL

WHERE are the courage and the loving pains  
Which, in the ages that before us went,  
In massive grandeur and rich ornament  
Bequeathed to England all her gorgeous fanes ?  
Can we but re-embellish their remains ?  
Is penury grown more ? religion spent ?  
Zeal dead ? Or is our punier Art content  
To patch and piece the work of subtler brains ?—  
Truro accepts the challenge :—See ! upsprings  
A new Cathedral, a right noble pile  
Instinct with the old devotion of past days  
When England's Church was one, and through the isle  
Rose one straight incense-cloud of prayer and praise  
Into the presence of the King of kings.

## A CALM SUNSET AT NEWQUAY, CORNWALL

THE tender hues of evening fade,  
And every eastward-facing cliff  
Writes, as in mighty hieroglyph,  
Along the sand its lengthening shade.

The busy sounds of day have died ;  
'Tis silence all on land and sea,  
Save in the wind's soft melody  
That freshens with the rising tide ;

And, on the hills fast darkening,  
Against the sun's half-drownèd disk  
Their feathery fringe of tamarisk  
Grows dusky as Apollyon's wing.

Now vanished is the last red flush  
That lingered in the western sky ;  
Both wind and wave still gentlier sigh,  
And join the universal hush.

The day is gone ; and on the night  
The myriad lamps of heaven emerge,  
And on the coast's extremest verge  
The triple flash of Trevose Light.

## THE MONUMENTS ON PLYMOUTH HOE

*“Afflavit Deus, et dissipantur.”*

### I

So looked he, gazing seaward from the Hoe,  
The calm strong man, that fateful summer day,  
And lightly poised his bowl, nor ceased to play :—  
“Ay, ay, they come,” he said, “but they shall go” :—  
Then made full leisurely the winning throw,  
And turned and went. That night from Plymouth Bay,  
A motley fleet, they sailed where tossing lay,  
Darkening the ocean two good leagues, the foe.  
Then fought Drake’s heroes ; and the attendant hosts  
Of God’s winds battled for them, scattering  
And battering the huge high-castled ships.  
So valiant faith, like David’s stone and sling,  
Drove back the invading terror from our coasts,  
And did the glory of proud Spain eclipse.

### II

Shame on the dull utilitarian mind  
That can pass by this spot and feel no thrill  
Of martial warmth, no bracing of the will  
Bravely to act its humbler part assigned !

O England, 'tis such memories that bind  
Thy sons in one strong brotherhood, and fill  
Their souls with pride that thou art England still,  
The same world-force as in the years behind.  
Drake, Hawkins, Frobisher, and ye who served  
Unknown, unnamed, in Effingham's campaigns,  
Long as our flag floats out on every breeze  
Our sailors' hearts 'twill nerve, as it has nerved,  
To know that English blood throbbed in your veins,  
And England's navy still shall rule the seas.

## III

But learn, my vaunting muse, a truer strain :—  
“ Non nobis, Domine ! ” By land and sea  
Prevail our arms ? “ Non nobis, Domine ! ”  
Be this our triumph's reverent refrain !  
For by Thy will, O God, kings fall or reign,  
Yea, all is Thine, and all things come of Thee :  
“ Thine is the glory and the victory : ”  
Thy sword, Thy tempests, humbled haughty Spain.  
Lay it, my country, to thy inmost heart :—  
Whatever blazonry enrich thy flag,  
Befits thee not the voice of boast and brag ;  
God is thy strength, and what He wills thou art.  
“ Non nobis Domine ! ” thy motto be  
Now and for aye :—“ Non nobis, Domine ! ”

## SNOWDON

SNOWDON, capricious monster, I have seen  
Thy splendour and thine awfulness ; on whom  
Now fleet a thousand tints of gold and green,  
Now growl dull thunders through thy purple gloom ;  
And I have seen the sinking sun illume  
Thy mighty bulk with more than earthly sheen  
Till all seemed fused together, crag and combe,  
One level wall of roseate light serene :  
So once I viewed thee, climbing towards Craig Dwr,  
And from a northward-facing eminence  
Saw, o'er thy summit poised in pale blue air,  
Motionless clouds of vivid carmine pure ;  
And marvelled whether past the veil of sense  
Was anything more exquisitely fair.

## THE WATER LOBELIA

*Lobelia Dortmanna*

IN tarn and lake  
Their home they make,  
These lonely little creatures ;  
All round the edge  
Among the sedge  
You see their pallid features :  
Let us beseech  
Their silent speech,  
And take them for our teachers.

Nowhere on earth  
Have they their birth,  
But in the shallow flood ;  
There born and bred,  
By instinct led  
They come up here to bud,  
Leaving below,  
As not for show,  
Their plain leaves in the mud.

Now mark the stem :  
In all of them  
Its growth is not alike ;  
The one that shoots  
From deepest roots  
Sends up the longest spike ;  
But these and those,  
As each one grows,  
Up to the surface strike.

Now, have we not  
A lesson got  
In this most humble school ?  
The plant can show  
Some truth, although  
Its pulpit's but a pool :  
It merely lives ;  
Yet, living, gives  
This wise, though homely, rule :—

“ Out of the slime  
We try to climb  
Up to the light of day ;  
And do, because  
Our nature's laws  
Command, and we obey :”—  
Lay we to heart  
Their simple art,  
And try to do as they.

There's various chance  
And circumstance  
For every soul alive ;  
But unto some  
They easier come,  
While some need more to strive ;  
Yet even these,  
If so they please,  
May like those others thrive ;

For nature's dole  
To every soul  
By Wisdom is decreed :  
We, like the flowers,  
Have each the powers  
Best suited to our need ;  
And used aright  
Up to the light  
Our lives they'll surely lead.

## ENTERPRISE

SUCCESS is sweet ; bear witness, who have quaffed  
The intoxicating draught ;  
And sweet is honey ; but the little things  
That make it, carry stings ;  
Then shall the bees have lost their patient labour's cost  
Because to win their fruit some danger brings ?

Bees hurt not honey-gatherers, because  
They veil themselves in gauze :—  
*Themselves, ay, that's the point ; with hands and eyes*  
Concealed, they can despise  
All perils, and contrive to rob the buzzing hive ;  
They've done their duty, and they've won their prize.

Let Duty be our aim ; Success may wait  
To follow, soon or late ;  
But let not Self obtrude, put Duty first ;  
The soul in Self immersed  
May gain some poor success, but such as none can  
bless,  
Nor can it slake our nature's lawful thirst.

Then think on Duty, and let be Success !

She'll crown thee none the less

If thou fight bravely with the adverse things

That daily Duty brings.

Who shrinks because there lurk some dangers in his  
work

Is daily forging his own conscience-stings.

The lazy man, says Solomon the wise,

Declines all enterprise ;

And, hugging close his plea that none can tell

What risks in work may dwell,

Sits moping lest he meet a lion in the street,

So loses life in saving it too well.

## SUSPENSE

GRIEF, terror, ignorance, darkness intense,  
Vague apprehensions built on things allied  
By slenderest links or none, perverted sense  
That sees portentous hints on every side,  
And dreary mazes with no clew to guide,  
And heartsick tremors sprung we know not whence,  
Suspicions false or tenfold magnified :  
These be thy ghastly tokens, black Suspense !  
Fell parent thou of feverish dreams of ill  
And baseless phantom-cares and hideous fright,  
And cruel anguished thoughts that come and go,  
Veiled messengers from some dim world of woe,  
Curdling the watcher's blood with sudden chill  
Like muffled footsteps heard at dead of night.

## SYMPATHY

SUGGESTED ON FRIAR'S POINT, KESWICK

WE'RE made for mutual help, not selfish ease,  
That on his neighbour's need each life may build  
An altar of self-sacrifice ; be thrilled  
By sorrows not his own ; each hand may seize  
His brother's load and bear it ; joys may please  
Wherewith another's heart, not ours, is filled.  
Thus mutually minded, there's instilled  
A common strength and stay. Look on these trees,  
Two ancient alders, from the craggy shelf  
Seeming to hang so loose ; whose roots, laid bare  
By the invading lake, in many a fold  
And knot so closely interwoven are  
That each, in ministering a firmer hold  
To its weak fellow, is held up itself.

## SORROW IN HIGH PLACES

*December 14, 1861, 1871, 1878.*

O DAY for England's Queen thrice-dyed in gloom !  
What has she wronged thee, that the cruel years  
But bring thee back to broach fresh founts of tears  
And teem new sorrows from thy baleful womb ?  
Thy name is graven on her husband's tomb ;  
Thy name recalls a heartsick nation's fears  
When Death stood ready with half-opened shears  
Threatening her son, her heir, in manhood's bloom.  
Oh, was it not enough ? What ! wilt thou crave  
Monopoly of grief, that yet again  
That name hath writ itself, with iron pen  
And widow's tears, upon her daughter's grave ?  
Remorseless day ! such pressure needed not  
To accent the lesson of man's common lot.

## SANDRINGHAM

*January 14, 1893*

“Our times are in His hand, who saith, ‘A whole I planned.’”  
—BROWNING.

Ah, stop the pageant! Hush,—make room for Death!  
Muffle the marriage-bells, and take away  
These orange-blossoms bright! No, let them stay  
With cypress twined, a bridal-funeral wreath.  
How little guess we mortals here beneath  
Life’s purpose,—Patience! we shall learn one day  
Why this joy blossomed, that must still delay;  
Why one might give his best, one but bequeath  
A hope half-fashioned. When each separate strand  
Of Love’s cord is unwrapt; and childhood, youth,  
And age seem one,—we shall cry “Wisely planned!”  
See all the tangle of these changeful years  
Knit in one gracious reconciling Truth,  
And reap glad harvests sown in blinding tears.

## GOOD-BYE

'Tis but a term of happy schoolboy life  
For which they part, some twelve swift-rolling weeks ;  
Yet are there sighs that tell of inward strife,  
And tears are stealing down the mother's cheeks ;  
"Good-bye, good-bye," with trembling lip she speaks,  
And stoops to kiss her boy's fair upturned brow,  
Who, smiling, with forced courage vainly seeks  
To hide the pang young pride must not allow.  
Mock not, cold cynic, the involuntary burst  
Of what you count a disproportioned grief !  
Each separation, be it ne'er so brief,  
Is Death's prophetic image, oft rehearsed  
Ere that last parting when the veil is drawn  
Betwixt us till the Resurrection-dawn.

## FILEY BAY

THE full moon in her soft and fleecy bed  
Is almost motionless, and clear as day  
Gleam the tall cliffs that southwards hem the Bay ;  
In front the slumbering ocean lies outspread ;  
Northwards, the treacherous Brigg, the sailor's dread,  
Juts out, a low black line ; and far away  
The lighthouse lamps their friendly beams display  
In fitful brilliance flashed from Flambro' Head.  
Now wake, imagination, wake and call  
From his loud caves the fierce north-eastern gale ;  
Brew such a storm as turned all Filey pale  
When helpless-staggering, hurled before the squall,  
The *Danemand*, scattering mast, and man, and bale,  
Was dashed on Speeton's white terrific wall.

## THE LIGHTHOUSE

YE kindly lamps, that o'er the darkening main  
Pour faultlessly your wealth of piercing light,  
May ye upon this perilous rock maintain  
Your faithful warning ! But a single night  
Should chance or negligence your ray eclipse,—  
Should lightning, or some dire convulsion, check  
Your measured revolutions, oh, what ships  
Roving this lonely waste were doomed to wreck !  
Shine on, ye guardian angels of the sea,  
And may the flash of your unslumbering eyes,  
While through a thousand storms it safely guides  
The ocean-wanderers, win and make them wise  
To trust the invisible Friend Whose care presides  
O'er all the ways of all the souls that be.

## CHICKWEED IN NOVEMBER

BRAVE little flower, I saw thee in the Spring  
Ere one but thou had dared to show its head ;  
And thou art here, the one undaunted thing  
When all that later bloomed have long been dead.  
With no gay tints doth partial Nature spread  
Thy unpretentious petals ; thither bring  
No fays their subtle essences to shed  
Rich perfume on the dewy morning's wing :  
Yet is there that in thy pale scentless star  
May win our homage :—earliest herald thou  
Of the year's life, its sole survivor now  
Where fragrance and bright hues no longer are.  
So might I be for every worthy work,  
The first to attempt it, and the last to shirk !

## PRETENTIOUS EDUCATION

As broken arcs to the completed round,  
As summer apples to autumnal fruit,  
Or single parts to the full choral sound ;  
How aptly these similitudes might suit  
Our modern schooling ! Hosts of things begun,  
Half taught, less learnt, then left in middle air  
'Twixt earth and sky, like cobwebs quickly spun  
And quickly shattered ; gone we know not where  
When the time comes to use them. Sciences  
The learner can't apply ; some foreign tongue  
Spelt and pronounced, not spoken. Shams like these,  
What profit's in them all ?—vain smatterings,  
And food for vanity ! Best were they flung  
Into the dusthole of discarded things.

## TIMELY SPEECH

WHY fail true words so often of the good  
We trust them with? Alas, too soon—too late—  
We give our message; now procrastinate,  
Now haste unwisely, careless of his mood  
We would befriend,—the proud or passionate blood  
That will resent, the dull lethargic state  
That will ignore our warning; or we wait  
Till faults have stiffened into hardihood.  
Nature and Art both teach a better way;  
Nature does nought untimely: sloth nor haste  
Is in her works; nor in true Art delay  
Shows ever, or precipitance misplaced:  
There is one moment when the smith must strike;  
Too quick—too tardy—the blow fails alike.

## THE PARSON'S LIFE IN TOWN AND COUNTRY

METHINKS it is a question idly asked  
“Whether in town or country life be best ?”  
Both have I known, have been familiar guest  
At both their banquets, both their ills unmasked ;  
In country suns unclouded I have basked,  
And toiled in streets by noisome smoke oppress ;  
In both found joys to give due labour zest,  
Both here and there known strength and temper  
tasked.  
Are not, in both, the same books on our shelves ;  
The same material,—man—wherewith to deal ;  
The same help, if we'll ask it, from above ;  
To our free wills, in both, the same appeal ?  
Sum up then: the criterion's in ourselves ;  
To sloth were either dull, both bright to love.

## NEW LIGHTS

THEIR name is Legion who with voice and pen  
Make noisy onslaught on our hallowed Creeds,  
A sore bewilderment to simple men  
Whose faith, once fixt, lives most in Christian deeds :  
But whoso with due knowledge hears and reads  
Strips piecemeal their pretentious garb ; and then  
Finds them old ghosts tricked out in brand-new weeds,  
Laid long ago, and to be laid again.  
So may you see, in some lone Scottish glen,  
Gigantic forms loom through the mountain-fog,  
And shiver as the portent big with fears  
Draws nearer—But your eagle proves a wren  
When, face to face encountering you, appears  
A weather-beaten shepherd with his dog.

## THE AGNOSTICS

HEARKEN, O people, we are they that know !  
Take, then, the verdict unto which we come :—  
Knowledge is Sense ; and into sight hath swum  
No God, no Heaven, no Soul. What can ye show  
When all is sifted ? Look above, below,—  
You catch no glimpse ; you pray, and all is dumb :  
Know, then, that you know nothing ; sight's the sum  
Of human knowledge :—let religion go !—  
Nay rather let come back the glimmering days  
Ere men knew that they knew ; when simple awe,  
In dark self-questionings and every phase  
Of Nature's life, an Unseen Presence saw ;  
And gave, obedient to the inward law,  
Due sacrifice of voiceless prayer and praise.

## THE ANTI-DOGMATIST

“ His school of thought ? ” Well, he was nothing quite,  
Yet stole some unacknowledged scraps from each ;  
His mind eclectic saw all sides of right  
(Such was his boast) ; and each by turns he’d preach ;  
And if one cavilled at his motley speech,  
He would wax wroth and cry—“ You troglodyte,  
You mope in your own den, and never reach  
Beyond its narrow walls one glimpse of light ;  
I scorn your Schools ! Each maps its puny plot,  
And stakes it round, and digs its snug retreat  
Just large enough for Truth and its own soul :  
Fools all,—I care not who ye are, or what,—  
To think that she lives in some special hole,  
Or that one eye can see her form complete ! ”

## THE WORKHOUSE CASUALS

I LINGERED to watch by the side of the road  
Where the Union Workhouse stands,  
As the vagrants streamed from their nightly abode  
And slowly, wearily, sullenly strode  
To their loafing in purposeless bands.

Good God ! what piteous faces were there,  
Lank, and haggard, and wan,  
Bloated with drink, or furrowed by care ;  
Bodies degraded, filthy, half-bare,  
Manhood all withered and gone.

I looked on the wretches so wasted and wild,  
And the thought came, laden with tears,  
Of the day when each was an unsullied child,  
And a father, it might be, had blessed him, and  
smiled  
With fond hope for the untrodden years.

O Sin, thou black shadow that brood'st over all,  
Destroyer of innocent mirth,  
Turning the sweetest honey to gall,  
And spreading thy curséd funeral pall  
O'er the fairest promise of earth !

That bright little baby, we look on it now  
A monster of fear and disgust,  
And who has worked this ruin but thou,  
Dashing the garland of joy from its brow  
And treading it down in the dust?

The forehead is seamed with hatred and spite  
That once shone open and clear ;  
The heart is stricken and eaten with blight,  
And the eyes that once twinkled with boyish delight  
Are fixt in a devilish leer ;

And friendship once pressed the hard hand that now  
grips  
No hand that's not lined with a purse ;  
Ay, the purest of lights has the darkest eclipse,—  
A mother once kissed those blasphemous lips  
That scarce open now but to curse.

The passions that burn, the suspicions that freeze,  
And selfishness, sloth, and strife,  
There's none but thou breeds demons like these :  
From thee grow poverty, shame, and disease,  
And the cares that darken the life.

Ay, there's never an age, and never a land  
But thy footsteps in tears we trace ;  
God's fairest creations are sealed with the brand  
Of thy pestilent breath and thy withering hand,  
Thou damning woe of our race !

And that fatherly blessing, that motherly kiss,  
Dare we hope even these have been known ?  
In what thousands of homes has the old Serpent's hiss  
Been the one inspiration of death ! and from this  
Boy and man have but normally grown :

Poor souls, in empoisoned heredity nursed,  
Shall their faults with our own be compared ?  
Let us fear lest our places and theirs be reversed  
When the first shall be last, and the last shall be first,  
And the Great Account righteously squared !

O Christ, Who the whole world's sorrows hast borne,  
May we learn Thy compassion Divine,  
To feel for our brothers whose flesh Thou hast worn,  
Nor suffer that we with the Pharisee's scorn  
Should spurn these lost ones of Thine !

Let us think of the Magdalen's purified heart,  
Of the Publican's golden chains burst,—  
And believe, since the same mighty Saviour Thou art,  
And Thy Spirit can still the same mercy impart,  
While there's life there is hope for the worst.

## THE SCIENCE OF THE UNSCIENTIFIC

“The assumption with which all the churches and sects set out, that there is a great Personal First Cause, the moral and intelligent Governor of the Universe . . . can never be verified.”  
—MATT. ARNOLD, *Lit. and Dogma*, Pref.

“ To me the meanest flower that blows can give  
Thoughts that do often lie too deep for tears.”  
—WORDSWORTH.

You ask—“ Is there a God above,  
And can we His existence prove ;  
What reason has our faith to give ? ”  
This, all sufficient—*that we live.*  
Life ! What is life ? We know the trend  
Of speculations that pretend  
This age-long question to have solved  
In living creatures self-evolved :  
The newfledged scientific talk  
Of life in the decaying stalk,  
How germs of being daily creep  
Spontaneous from the rotting heap.  
Suppose (though Tyndall stands aloof,  
And says that *he* can find no proof)—

But if they did, how would it touch  
The final truth?—'twould tell this much,  
That God has other ways than those  
We've been accustomed to suppose.  
Or what if it be true that Man  
Descends from an ascidian?  
What if his father was an ape?  
We cannot in this way escape  
The initial question, "What is Life?"  
On this one point turns all the strife:—  
Can life create itself?—The chasm  
You've bridged from self to protoplasm;  
What have you gained? the point you miss  
So long as you're content with this:  
Go back and back for any distance,  
How do you touch the *first* existence?  
Your jellybag grew up to ape,  
Who reached at last to human shape:—  
Granted! Then tell us, if you can,  
Who made the first ascidian?  
But come, here is a simpler task,  
Answer yourself the thing you ask:—  
Go gather the first flower you find  
And tell us, was it Chance or Mind  
That fashioned it in every part  
With such incomparable art,  
A world of exquisite design  
Where use and loveliness combine  
To make it all 'twas meant to be  
In the great world's economy?

Who made it such, and only such,  
With all it needs, nor aught too much?  
Let others hold, who love debate,  
This thing developed by blind fate,  
Or smile contempt on those who claim  
To speak of "Him" from Whom it came;—  
To me it must exhibit still  
The impress of a Living Will,  
Of an intelligent First Cause  
Whose mind determines Nature's Laws.  
It tells me of Almighty Power:  
I reckon that Who made this flower  
Could make or mar, if so He please,  
A million worlds with equal ease.  
To me, unlearned though I be,  
His love's inscribed on all I see.  
Nor, saying this, do I forget  
The numerous sights which seem to let  
The thought of pure beneficence  
(Nay, show like counter-evidence),—  
The sufferings that go hand in hand  
With what appears so kindly planned:  
Pain, sorrow, loss,—a thousand things  
From which the dark suspicion springs  
That boundless Love cannot consist  
With boundless Power. "If both exist,  
The world," men say, "should surely be  
Another thing than what we see."  
But what if man have wrought to curse  
This province of God's Universe?

Nothing from His pure love detract  
The fruits of man's own wilful act ;  
All ills we see are centred in  
The unfathomed mystery of Sin.  
This argument can never move  
Our hearts to doubt the Maker's Love :—  
Nay, rather, when in grief and pain  
We find remedial means to gain  
Conquest o'er sin, or power to wean  
From earth and fix on things unseen  
Our hearts and hopes, they even prove  
At once His Wisdom and His Love,  
Who makes the very fruits of ill  
The handmaids of His loving will.  
For me His perfect wisdom lurks  
Under the least of Nature's works :—  
(The least ? nay, what is more or less  
Where all one truth alike express ?)  
There is no thing so vast or weak  
But there His voiceless accents speak :  
'Tis He who paints the butterfly  
And rolls the tempests through the sky ;  
Whose will controls the raging sea  
And lends its instinct to the bee ;  
Whose fingers weave the lily's robe  
And steer through space this wandering globe.  
With Him is neither great nor small,  
In all He lives and speaks through all :  
In rock and tree, in beast and bird,  
His teachings are by wisdom heard ;

When kingdoms reel, or infants cry,  
The wakeful heart may feel Him nigh ;  
When fledgelings rustle in the thatch  
The listening ear His voice may catch  
Without whose *fiat* just and wise  
No hero lives, no sparrow dies.

From the Archangel next His throne  
To the grey lichen on the stone  
All things existent, near and far,  
He made, and keeps them what they are.  
Nor asks it intellect refined  
Nor effort of the reasoning mind  
To read His lore ; the wise may miss,  
The simple find, their way to this.  
A reverent heart is all it asks :—  
To such beneath her myriad masks  
Nature her hidden Lord displays,  
Ceaselessly vocal with His praise.

## A ROYAL LEGACY

*Feb. 2, 1901*

OUR loss to-day, dear Queen, is largely gain :—  
A new ideal granted to mankind,  
A pattern of rare contrasts :—power combined  
With minute care ; a richly-cultured brain  
With sweet simplicity ; unquestioned reign  
O'er teeming millions, yet a will resigned  
Always to Heaven ; a guarded life and mind  
That knew, and in thy courtiers brooked, no stain  
Thine the true greatness that could stoop, as He  
Stooped who was God incarnate, to the needs  
And heart-aches of the lowliest, yet retained  
His just prerogative of Majesty :  
So met, Victoria, in thy Christlike deeds  
Imperial grace and sympathy unfeigned.

## CORONATION-DAY OF KING EDWARD VII

*June 26, 1902*

GOD save our gracious King !  
Let all the Empire sing  
“ God save the King ! ”  
Joy to King Edward’s reign !  
Wide over land and main  
Echo the glad refrain  
“ God save the King ! ”

Fling, all ye breezes, fling  
On your world-circling wing  
“ God save the King ! ”  
Trumpet and booming gun  
Welcome his rule begun ;  
Hail, good Victoria’s son !  
“ God save the King ! ”

Bells in your towers swing,  
Proudly and sweetly ring  
“ God save the King ! ”

High to the welkin float  
 As from one mighty throat  
 Loud cheer and music's note,—  
 “God save the King !”

Organ and tuneful string  
 Swell the day's triumphing  
 “God save the King !”  
 Flags wreathed with blossoms rare  
 Ruffle the scented air ;  
 Beacon-flames flash and flare  
 “God save the King !”

Let every loyal thing  
 Its proper tribute bring ;  
 God save the King !  
 Heir of the queenliest Queen  
 England or earth has seen,  
 Keep thou her memory green,  
 Kingliest King !

By Truth and Mercy wring  
 Praise e'en from Envy's sting,  
 Edward our King ;—  
 God's royal blessing be  
 On thy fair Queen and thee  
 Now and eternally :  
 God save the King !

From your reign's early spring  
May you to Heaven cling  
    On through its growth ;  
And as the years pass by  
Work out the purpose high  
Of your great destiny :—  
    God save you both !

## GEORGE RIDDING

(BISHOP OF SOUTHWELL 1884-1904) IN COUNCIL

As they who deal with precious ore, and sift  
The metal from its coarse embedding dross ;  
So, scornful of the multifarious gloss  
Of shallower critics, he essayed to lift  
Our minds ('twas his, 'tis scarce another's gift)  
To final Truth, steering his speech across  
All premature conceits ; not to the loss  
Of lesser ends, but gaining the true drift.  
If sometimes our dull brains failed, as we heard,  
To plumb his meaning,—blamed it as obscure,—  
We found it later when the printed word  
Was read at leisure ; then it came out pure,  
Strong and inspiring, and our hearts were stirred  
With some new sense of thought at last mature.

## SUNSET IN DARLEY DALE

*May 30, 1905*

SEE how the windows blaze on Riber's height,  
On the scarred Knabb what rosy tints prevail !  
And as the eye roams round the Southern dale  
All the hill-pastures sleep in golden light  
From Masson's crowning grove to where the sight  
Rests over Wensley—ah, how soon to pale !  
The kindling fires already fade and fail,  
And lovely day melts into lovely night.  
Shades gather fast where Oker's lonely tree  
Looks down upon its deep-embosomed combe ;  
And on God's Acre broods a tender gloom,  
White crosses gleaming dim ; and silently  
One guards for me earth's dearest spot, while life  
And memory last, where sleepest thou, my wife.

## SACRED SUBJECTS

“A verse may find him who a sermon flies.”

—GEORGE HERBERT.

A few of the verses in this section are reprinted, with some emendations, from "The Resurrection, and other Poems," published in 1878. The remainder may be considered as a Supplement to that volume.

F. A.

## “THE FULNESS OF THE TIMES”

DAUGHTER of Zion, hark !  
Hear'st not the rising sound  
That freshens breeze-like from yon eastern bound  
Where the new dawn is struggling with the dark ?  
Awake, awake—and let its music clear  
    Strike on thy listening ear.

Hark how they rise and swell,  
Those whispers of the Past !  
All down the ages rolls the volume vast  
And frames one voice—“ He comes, Emmanuel,  
The child whom through unnumbered years of gloom  
    Time bare within her womb.”

Now are the days full-ripe ;  
The Promise of Earth's youth  
Takes living substance, moulding into truth  
Vague hope, prophetic glimpse, and mystic type :  
All, all is ready—see, the shadows break :—  
    Zion, awake, awake !

Now has Rome's iron rod  
Welded the world in one ;  
Her work of seven long centuries is done ;  
Closed is the temple of the two-faced god,  
From East to West the throes of conquest cease  
Hushed in a world-wide peace.

Is it the goddess blind  
That thus prepares a stage  
For mercy's conquest in the coming Age  
And boundless fellowship of humankind ?  
Nay, the Desire of Nations thus hath wrought  
Beyond His agents' thought.

Thou, mighty power of Rome,  
Hast done thy Master's will,  
Unwitting that His plans thou didst fulfil  
From the first day when from thy narrow home  
Thou wentest forth, in ever-widening sweep  
Thy triumphs vast to reap :

To make the King's highway  
From Britain's new-found isle  
To where the sunny plains of India smile  
Hard by the portals of the orient day,  
Thine was the mission to prepare the earth  
For her Redeemer's birth.

Nor less to thee, fair Greece,  
Was noble share assigned  
In God’s great world-scheme—to instruct the mind,  
And train it, nurtured in the arts of peace  
Born of thy native beauty, to behold  
Beauty of higher mould.

Thine, too, to teach the tongue  
Those charms of eloquence  
Whereby the soul, rapt beyond carnal sense,  
To faith and high endeavour may be strung ;  
Words that should breathe, when touched with fire  
Divine,  
A truer lore than thine.

Thus did your powers converge,  
Fair Greece, and lordly Rome,  
To one great purpose till the Christ should come  
To claim the homage of your gifts, and merge  
For evermore all scattered rays in one  
Glorious unsetting sun.

## A CHRISTMAS CAROL

SHEPHERDS ere the break of day  
On the mountain pastures lay ;  
Stretched at ease upon the sod  
Watched they while their charge was sleeping ;  
And above, by thousands peeping,  
Shone the quiet stars of God :—  
Nought to break the silence deep  
But the breathing of the sheep.

Then, as sudden on their eyes  
As the lightning cleaves the skies,  
Broke an unexpected morn—  
Seraph-form like diamond flaming,  
Seraph-voice aloud proclaiming,  
“ Christ the Saviour, Christ is born !  
Haste to seek Him where He lies,  
David’s Heir, in rude disguise.”

Not more swiftly flies the shaft  
Sped by some strong archer’s craft  
Than those shepherds haste away,

To approve the wondrous story  
Told with such display of glory—  
There in swaddling-clothes He lay  
All among the stalléd kine,  
Christ, the Heir of David's line !

Hark ! again the Noël bells  
Echo round the hills and dells,  
Waking with their joyous din  
    Every heart to love and gladness,  
    Ringing out despair and sadness,  
Ringing Christ the Saviour in :  
Come and seek Him, Christian men,  
Come and seek Him once again !

## EPIPHANY

S. MATTHEW v. 16 ; EPH. iii. 10.

O CHRIST, when veiled in mortal flesh  
Thy Godhead dwelt with men,  
From day to day flashed forth afresh  
Its glory on their ken.

New powers till then unseen, unheard,  
Proclaimed Thy heavenly birth :  
Emmanuel, the Father's Word,  
Had pitched His tent on earth.

Nor sudden was that Light's eclipse  
When Thou from earth wert gone ;  
Awhile on Apostolic lips  
The glory lingered on :

A glory, not their own but Thine,  
Shone forth in works of love,  
For faith and prayer by chains Divine  
Linked them with Thee above.

But, one by one, their mission o'er,  
Thou took'st them to their rest,  
And to the eye of sense no more  
Thy glory was expressed.

Comes now no gleam, no voice is heard,  
'Tis dark and silent all,  
Save where through rite or written word  
Faith hears Thy secret call.

But once again on human eyes  
Shall burst the vision clear,  
And angel-borne through flaming skies  
Thy dazzling Form appear.

O Master, can it be Thy will  
That through these quiet days,—  
Whilst Thou art absent from us still  
And our last doom delays,—

That we in fruitless faith suppress  
The Light our spirits see,  
Boast of the record and confess  
The Epiphany to be,

Yet never seek from hearts renewed  
To spread that Light abroad ?  
Lit up with wisdom myriad-hued  
Should we not shine for God ?

Surely, incarnate in Thine own,  
With various gifts for each,  
Still would'st Thou make Thy glory known  
In Christlike deed and speech.

Oh that we might with loving care  
Do this Thy great command,  
That all might see the Light we bear  
And bless the kindling Hand.

Alas, how infinitely poor  
Our best endeavours are,  
What earthly aims our souls immure,  
What sins our service mar !

Lord, hearken as our faults we own,  
And when Thou hear'st, forgive ;  
And help us in Thy Light alone  
Henceforth to work and live ;

So up to Heaven the news should spread,  
And angels too should know  
That even on earth God's Light is shed,  
God's Life is lived below.

## A QUESTION FOR HOLY WEEK

S. JOHN xiii. 25 ; S. MATT. xxvi. 22

“Who is it, Lord?” in one griefstricken cry  
The tremulous voices vie ;  
Again and yet again  
From hearts misgiving bursts the sad refrain,  
“Lord, is it I?”

O true and tender-hearted, in whose ear  
Love’s warning sounds so clear,  
And straight on your own ways  
Bends down that keen self-scrutinising gaze  
In holy fear !

So, Christ, forbid that overweening pride  
Me from myself should hide !  
Hear I another’s sin,  
Let wakeful conscience her stern work begin  
Mine own to chide ;

At lightest whisper may my spirit learn  
Inwards her eye to turn ;  
And in all rankest weeds,  
Since in her dark depths lurk the selfsame seeds,  
Herself discern.

I would not be too hasty to descry  
Motes in my brother's eye,  
Lest haply I presume  
Like David, by my own too righteous doom  
Adjudged to die.

Not on the still lake's bosom moon and star  
More clearly mirrored are,  
Than the least evil deed  
On our swift-judging minds,—save when we plead  
At our own bar !

O let me ne'er forget, great Judge Divine,  
That I must plead at Thine !  
Unstable as the sea  
To self-distrust, good LORD, and trust in Thee  
My heart incline.

## THURSDAY BEFORE EASTER

S. JOHN xiii. 30

'Tis night :—not dark, for through this humble room  
The festal lamps diffuse their radiance bright ;  
Nor dark within these faithful hearts, on whom  
Shines inwardly the world's unchanging Light.  
'Tis night :—not dark without ; though late the hour,  
Through Zion's streets the pilgrim myriads stray  
Where o'er God's courts gleam pinnacle and tower  
Bathed in the Paschal moonlight bright as day.  
'Tis night :—ah, night how dark ! black as deep Hell,  
In that seared soul that on damnation's edge  
Durst take and eat, unflinching, Love's last pledge :  
O living lie, O craft inscrutable,  
Even to the end veiled from all mortal sight,  
Gone forth at last ! gone into endless night.

## GOOD FRIDAY

“ Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by ? ”

A HOLIDAY, a day of sport and glee,  
A holiday,—ah, not a Holy Day !  
In festive garb, lighthearted, loud and gay,  
The world makes merry round the accursed tree !  
Was it for this our forefathers set free  
These hours from common toils,—that men might play  
And banish from their bosoms quite away  
Not worldly cares, but all solemnity ?  
O man, who revellest this sacred morn,  
Whate'er thy sin, whate'er thy sorrow be,  
For them those Hands were pierced, that Brow was torn,  
Thy burden borne which none could bear but HE.  
Wilt thou not look ? wilt thou pass by in scorn ?  
'Tis JESUS hangs there, and He died for thee.

## CALVARY

AROUND this spot whereon our sin was purged  
By worthier offering than of bulls or goats,  
Devotion still on wings of memory floats,  
Even as to it all old-world hopes converged.  
Know, sinner, from what hopeless debt emerged  
Thy soul, when in mysterious sacrifice  
Thy Creditor laid down in Blood the price  
Of the full quittance His own justice urged !  
Bethink thee, and esteem this Sacred Hill  
Heaven's School of Charity ; here consecrate  
To Love all gifts and powers, all worldly state,  
And to this Cross nail thankfully thy will ;  
Here Self was nought ; O man, nought be it still,  
All swallowed up in Love so passing great !

## THE MUFFLED PEAL

SLEEPS he in Christ? Oh, sorrow not as those  
Who sorrow without hope! Fresh garlands bring,  
Sweet violets, and all glad gifts of Spring  
That slept but now beneath sepulchral snows:—  
They seemed to die; they did but in repose  
Gather new strength and beauty. So the King  
Of flowers and men and each created thing  
Lay down in death, and gloriously uprose.  
Listen how in those sympathetic bells,—  
Their changeful note, now joyous, now subdued,—  
Hope strives with grief; and each by turns excels,  
Till both are blended in one peaceful mood,  
And seem like welcomes of a multitude  
Far off, commingling with earth's last farewells.

## ASCENSION-TIDE

O MYSTERY of Love Divine,  
How hast Thou for our wants sufficed,  
Since God and Man in Thee combine,  
Two natures in One perfect Christ !

While still thy Godhead reigned above  
Thy Manhood toiled and wept below,  
And earth was warmed with heavenly Love,  
And Heaven was thrilled with earthly woe.

And now within the veil returned,  
God linked with Man for evermore,  
The sympathy by suffering learned  
Enhances all Thou wert before.

Henceforth, of every human smart,  
Soon as Thy Manhood feels the pang  
Thy Godhead probes the wounded heart,  
And tracks the sorrow whence it sprang.

Thou canst, and wilt, in all our need  
Supply the help none other can ;  
Thou canst, for Thou art God indeed,  
Thou wilt, for Thou art very Man.

O God and Man, O loving Christ,  
Our mighty aid, our gentle Friend,  
Ne'er be our hearts from Thee enticed,  
But save and keep us to the end.

## “WHY STAND YE GAZING UP INTO HEAVEN ?”

ACTS i. 11

WHY strain your eyes into yon distant blue ?  
Snapt is the earthly bond  
That knit your Lord and you ;  
And He is passed into the Light beyond.

Now must a subtler fellowship begin,  
And ye yourselves shall know  
Closer to Him akin  
Than when in flesh He lived with you below.

Think how He spake: “ My kindred in the flesh,  
Not these true kindred are ;  
Flesh dies, henceforth afresh  
Shall grow a oneness time nor death can mar.

“A hidden unity, where will and heart  
Have answered to My call ;  
That tie no force can part,  
In Me all such shall live, and I in all.”

## S. JUDE

“ Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.”—S. JOHN xiv. 22, 23.

Not on the world, but where I trace,  
In simple souls and true,  
Welcome sincere, my waiting grace  
Shall light as doth the dew;

And as the dewdrop on the grass  
Reflects the orb of day,  
So Heaven’s own Love Itself shall glass  
On hearts that love and pray.

## LATE DAFFODILS

LENT lilies here at Whitsuntide !  
Has Nature ceased to be our guide,  
Suggesting by what growth she yields,  
Diverse in Spring and Summer fields,  
Progressive lessons, one by one,  
What should be thought, or what be done ?  
Must we, to suit her indolence,  
Put back the hands of time to whence  
They passed six weeks ago, when Lent  
Called us to sorrow and repent ?  
Shall we forget the after-joy  
That Easter brought, and still employ  
Our souls in thoughts of what we seemed  
Ere yet we saw ourselves redeemed,  
Before the Cross and vanquished grave  
Had told of One at hand to save,  
Who now at this glad time imparts  
New life, new power, to nerve our hearts ?  
No ! Nature so at strife with grace,  
Handmaid to mistress must give place,  
And all must help our hopes to lift  
To God's great Pentecostal Gift.

Yet nought comes purposeless, and ye  
Late lilies have a voice for me :—  
By your familiar sight and scent  
My memory wanders back to Lent,  
But wanders by a pathway strown  
With many a flower that since has blown,  
Such flowers as hope delights to weave  
In coronals on Whitsun Eve ;  
With these your Lenten fragrance blends,  
And in one breath to Heaven ascends :  
The sum—ye bid me not forget,  
Though saved, I am a sinner yet.

## TO-DAY

“Think that this day will never dawn again.”

—DANTE'S *Purgatorio* (Longfellow's translation), xii. 84.

O THOU who contest life a time for play,  
Write up this motto where it may remain  
To meet thine eye as saith each opening day,  
“I shall not dawn again.”

Alas, of all past days our Master lent  
As links to fashion in one golden chain  
Of watchful service, and on self were spent,  
Not one can come again.

Nought can we, LORD, but free forgiveness ask  
For chances given and lost, now mourned in vain.  
Brace Thou our wills to-day for this day's task ;  
Ne'er will it dawn again.

Unlooked-for calls 'twill bring ; ourselves foreknow  
Its common dues of hand and tongue and brain ;  
Be these and those met bravely ere it go

Never to come again :

To fight some old temptation, heal some strife,  
Speak timely warning, ease some sufferer's pain,  
Bring light and hope into some darkened life

To-day, but not again :

Thy mercy, Spirit of wisdom, we entreat ;  
This burning thought inspire us to retain,  
That each day's trial, in itself complete,

Comes once, nor comes again :

Do we what good lies nearest, small or great,  
Bear we what cross may come, and not complain ;  
So shall each day to Thee be consecrate

Though it comes not again.

'Twill never dawn again ! Oh, in our ears  
Be echoed, morn by morn, this solemn strain  
To quicken zeal and wake heart-searching fears :

“ 'Twill never dawn again ! ”

By stages unperceived how drift away  
Our little lives, and powers of service wane,  
Unused and atrophied, till work nor day

Can come to us again !

Our days—they come and pass, how cheaply priced !  
In thoughtless folly spent, or proud disdain,  
“Days of the Son of man,” each lent by Christ,  
    Ne’er to be lent again :

And one will come when work can be no more ;  
When all seeds, good or vile, have grown to grain,  
And God’s strong angels have shut-to the door  
    That opens not again.

## CHRIST'S METHOD

S. MARK iv. 33 ; S. JOHN xvi. 12

So with a clear eye to their final good  
The Master fed His babes with milk, not meat :  
For how should spirit, more than flesh, complete  
Its healthy growth by undigested food ?  
By word and act adapted to the mood  
And mind of the hearers, patient and discreet  
He taught them : as when, kneeling at their feet,  
His lowly love made itself understood.  
Christ, teach Thy servants this simplicity,  
Lest, forcing in their inconsiderate haste  
On sensebound minds or inexperienced youth  
(As though than Wisdom they would wiser be)  
The deeper lessons of Thy holy Truth,  
Their truest teaching fail and run to waste.

## CHRIST'S MIRACLES

THEY err who in Christ's wonders think to trace  
Capricious violence to natural laws.  
Take the plain truth : before the Master's face  
The servant in humility withdraws.  
When that strong Will, which is the vital cause  
Of all things, wrought in man a little space,  
All forces less than His were held in pause,  
And Nature owned the higher law of Grace.  
And what are we who question it ?—O Thou,  
Whose blinding glory the old Hebrew seer  
Once saw with trembling, and the Seraphim  
Veiling their faces ; not less glorious now  
To them the vision ! but to us how dim  
It shines ; and but Thine outmost skirts appear.

## SIMON OF CYRENE

O HAPPY thou, whom fancy paints  
Discerned among thy fellow-saints  
By one inimitable gem  
That glitters in thy diadem,  
Unenvied, though to thee alone  
Of men redeemed the grace be shown  
To wear that crown none other shares,  
Decreed thee by thy Lord and theirs.  
Like thee, along the way He went  
They bore what cross the Saviour sent,—  
*Their* cross :—thy special glory is,  
Thou took'st not only thine, but His.  
That very Wood already stained  
With blood from His pure forehead drained,  
That Wood which in the darkened sky  
Should quiver with His dying cry,  
That wooden Cross thy shoulder bare  
Thy suffering Saviour's pain to share :  
On thee, thee only, was bestowed  
The grace of lightening His load,

Feeling in bruised and tortured limb  
The actual weight that pressed on Him.  
Ah, who in that eternal rest,  
Where all alike are wholly blest,  
Can grudge thee that thy brow should wear  
One little gem none else may share ?

## A P O L L O S

ACTS xviii. 24-28

THE priests in Nature's temple learned  
Their noble lore by slow degrees :  
One truth was here, one there discerned,  
And one by those, and one by these ;  
And one by one the truths were purged  
By patient toil of many a mind,  
Till on the centre all converged,  
And fact by fact stood out defined.  
Then speech to knowledge they would add,  
And teach the world the truth they had,  
Yet, teaching, knew themselves half-blind ;  
There was a something that they missed,—  
Some deeper truth must still exist,—  
*They could not see the law behind.*

By rigid science they could prove  
The paths wherein the planets move ;  
They knew, nor aught could shake the fact  
Or make their knowledge more exact ;  
But still, the Why they could not tell  
Till our great Newton, pondering, saw

How to the earth the apple fell,  
And grasped the reconciling law.  
How clear, by that one flash, became  
The secrets of this mighty frame !  
No more they saw the planets roll  
As separate objects to the eye,  
But all in their diversity  
Conjoined in one majestic whole,  
While each pursued its several course  
Obedient to the central force.

So, in a nobler temple still,  
As knowledge grew from more to more,  
Did men with prayer and thought and skill  
Build up the mass of Sacred lore.  
One truth was here, one there revealed,  
Each leading to a higher stage,  
As vision, insight, voice might yield  
New matter for the inspired page ;  
Historian, psalmist, prophet, sage,  
Found larger regions to explore ;  
And man to man, and age to age,  
Passed down the evergrowing store.

And thou, Apollos, thou hadst known  
That Word, and made it all thine own.  
By God's own Hand the living seed  
Within thy tender heart was sown ;  
And thou thyself by timely heed,

And faithful culture of thy youth,  
Hadst learnt the perfect sum of Truth  
To which the latest age had grown.  
Thy patriot zeal had loved to trace  
The story of thy father's race ;  
Abraham's faith, and Moses' law,  
And David's reign, who dimly saw  
A vaster glory than his own,  
That streamed from an Eternal Throne ;  
The rites of Aaron's priestly line ;  
Prophetic hint, and mystic sign,  
Obscure foreshowings of the Christ,  
Bright promises unrealised,  
Rich heritage of hopes sublime  
That fed upon that faithful Word  
Still unrepealed, though long deferred,  
Which heralded the golden time :—  
Such glorious framework all was thine,  
Its spirit ?—Thou wert yet a child,  
Thy knowledge all unreconciled ;  
Thou knew'st but this,—'twas all Divine.

And He Who gave thee wit to find  
This wealth of truth, and in thy mind  
To store it till the dawn should break,  
And thou upon the perfect view  
As from a glowing dream shouldst wake  
To find the fancy more than true,—  
He Who had helped thee thus to reach  
The knowledge, lent thee powers of speech,

The orator's persuasive charm,  
The eloquence which now can calm,  
And now instruct, and now inspire  
With purpose high and strong desire ;  
So should not thy committed trust  
Bless but thyself, or idly hide  
Its virtues in ignoble rust,  
But shower its gifts on every side  
That truth might flourish far and wide.

But what avail these splendid gains  
Of knowledge won by prayer and pains ?  
What boots it that thy fluent tongue  
To sweetest melody be strung,  
If he who sings, and they who hear,  
See only Truth's half-darkened sphere ;  
Nor find more life in what is sung  
Than wont to thrill some ancient seer :  
If nought be sung beyond the scope  
Of that old-world prophetic strain  
Which, dying out in words of hope,  
Woke but to words of hope again :  
If still thy straining vision fail  
To penetrate within the veil !

As when the rising sun has kissed  
The heavy banks of brooding mist,  
And glorified them with the ray  
Which soon will melt them all away :—

So now, upon the thoughts that roll  
In dim confusion through thy soul  
The Sun of Truth begins to smite,  
And floods them with a sea of light.  
But even as 'tis no chance draws forth  
The cold night vapours from the earth,  
But he, the selfsame glorious sun  
Who melts them when their work is done :  
So shalt thou learn that not by chance  
Arose those thoughts and hopes confused  
On which thy mind through life has mused ;  
That not one part or circumstance  
Of that through which thy knowledge grew  
But came from Him Who through the night  
Still wrought, and now bursts forth to light  
To quicken and make all things new.  
The clouds that o'er thy spirit brood  
Bore, every one, its gift of good ;  
And though the sun that now has burst  
Shall melt them, one by one, away,  
His work they did ; and He will stay  
To kiss them ere they be dispersed.  
The Christ has risen, the world's true Sun,  
The all-enlightening glorious orb  
Who doth all lesser lights absorb,  
Who is all lesser lights in one ;  
For never shone the light so dim  
But caught its feeble rays from Him.  
Now go thou forth with thankful heart  
For all thou hast and all thou art ;

Draw out the treasures from thy store  
Of ancient Israel's hoarded lore ;  
With such a zeal as fired thy youth  
To labour in the fruitful task  
Of study, haste thou now to ask  
The meaning of the embodied Truth ;  
Right well thou know'st its outward form,  
To know its spirit now begin,—  
No more a clay-cold corpse, but warm  
With life—the living Christ within.  
Know now why God has given thee speech :  
Thy brothers to instruct, entreat,  
Warn, comfort, with persuasion sweet  
The riches of His love to teach ;  
And, with the cords most meet for each,  
To draw them to their Saviour's feet.

## F E L I X

ACTS xxiv.

THOU dar'st not say, "Since life began  
I knew not to tell good from ill,  
To set 'I ought' against 'I will'":—  
God made thee not a brute, but man.

What though for thee no uttered voice  
Pealed its loud thunders from the mount,  
Nor written word from Wisdom's fount  
Was offered for thy spirit's choice,

Two teachers hadst thou :—one within,  
Thy better self, and one without,  
Creation's witness; all about,  
Signs of a Good for man to win.

There were who read those signs, who saw  
Darkly, but not in vain, a Hand  
That worked for good, a Power that planned  
Their lives to keep that inward law.

Men born, as thou, in unblest climes  
Where all conspired to crush the right,  
Still caught some glimmer of that light  
Whose fulness bathes these later times.

And why not thou? What blanched thy cheek,  
Whence came that spark of shame, when hint  
Of coming judgment struck thy flint  
As now thou heard'st thy prisoner speak?

That spark condemns thy life's whole sum,  
Tells of good knowledge self-confined;  
Lay it not always in thy mind?  
Thy will bade slumber, kept it dumb.

But lo, thou canst no more control;  
God's hammer strikes, and fiery red  
It flashes forth. Oh, let it spread  
And flood with penitence thy soul!

Canst not? Alas, thou canst! Not He  
That made, can force, a human will;  
'Tis ours, through all life's trial, still  
To take the good or let it be.

“Not yet,” I hear thee plead, “not now!  
Time lacks; let be convenient space;  
Another day may find more place”—  
Another day? And what if thou

Before another day have dawned  
Be gone from earth, in the outer gloom  
To curse thy folly, wait the doom  
Of grace despised, sin vainly warned ?

This is thy chance, may be thy last ;  
Now may'st thou snap thy chains, find peace :  
Act, act ! before the summons cease,  
God's patience flag, and hope be past.

We cannot choose our times. We can  
Use or misuse them ; but they fall  
As Wisdom wills to each and all ;—  
To know them is the test of man.

## THE IMMORTALITY OF LOVE

1 COR. xiii. 13

FAITH descires our home afar  
While we wander here below ;  
Hope is now a friendly star  
Lighting all the way we go.  
What is Faith to those who know ?  
Soars she not beyond the veil ;  
Lost in Heaven's transcendent glow  
Hope's dim starlight waxes pale.  
When we see God eye to eye  
All but Love must fade and die.

Substance of life's brightest dream,  
Parent of all grace beside,  
Love, in earth and Heaven supreme,  
Fails not, but,—as silver tried  
Is refined and purified,—  
Sifted of its earthly dross  
Love in Heaven shall still abide,  
Sole survivor of earth's loss :—  
How should Love a mortal prove ?  
God still lives, and God is Love.

## BROKEN RESOLUTIONS

MEMORY, thy working passes all our wit :  
How suddenly thy lightning scathes our joy !  
The orphaned mother, whom home-cares employ  
About her house, has unawares alit  
On some poor trivial thing wherewith are knit  
Thoughts of the buried past,—some book or toy,—  
Ah, see those gushing tears ;—“ My boy, my boy !  
For your dear sake my sorrow cherished it.”  
So unexpected are the thoughts that flit  
Across our idle moments ; bringing back,  
Through doors mysterious that no key will fit,  
Hopes of our youth, now dead ; vows lightly spoken ;  
Resolves of good, no sooner made than broken,  
And air-built castles, long since gone to wrack.

## MATERIALISM

You will hold nought, you say, but that which lies  
Right in your path : what sight and touch can test ;  
Here sensebound you are well content to rest,  
To airier heights you hope nor care to rise.  
Beseech you, tell me : are these hands and eyes  
Our only organs ? or if unconfessed  
Old truths, half seen as through a palimpsest,  
Visit our minds,—to scorn them, is it wise ?  
Is man no other than his sheep or ox  
That lives unheeding, and unheeded dies ?  
Then, since there is I know not what that mocks  
This brutish privilege, and hourly plies  
With strange misgivings, 'twere a glad surprise  
If we might exchange places with our flocks.

## S. PAUL AT ATHENS

Proud city, consecrate to human Thought,  
Athens, its birthplace and metropolis,  
What presage of success was, surely, his  
Who to thy Schools the newborn Gospel brought :  
Here where earth's keenest intellects had sought  
The True, the Ideal Beauty ; that which Is  
Through that which seems, the baffling mysteries  
Which Socrates discussed and Plato taught :  
Oh, what a soil was here wherein to sow  
His heavenly seed ! how would the Word be prized  
That unveiled all they vainly longed to know :—  
The Incarnate Truth, the Ideal realised !  
Alas, poor human wisdom, Truth Divine  
To sinful souls asks other ways than thine.

## HINDOO RELIGION

Is it some lost tradition doth control  
Those dusky dreamers of the ancient East  
To teach that man, once from the flesh released,  
Shall merge his separate being in the Whole ?  
Or is it that instinctively the Soul,  
As waters seek the level of their source,  
Feels that from viewless heights began her course,  
And vaguely knows that there must be her goal ?  
So towards the light those contemplative minds  
Reaching, fall short ; yet touch the outer rim :  
For God, our Author, is our End : in Him  
Our being its true consummation finds.  
Fruitless half-truth,—right in the general plan,  
They miss the Living God, the personal Man.

## THE LESSON OF JACOB'S LIFE

“Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel.”

—GEN. xxxii. 28

JACOB, if with too microscopic ken  
Our eyes should mark the errors of thy youth,  
Keen to descry those weaker moments when  
Self-love o'erleapt the sacred bounds of truth,  
'Twere sin against that kindly law of ruth  
Which bids us veil the faults of fallen men,  
As knowing that like judgment us pursu'th  
As that we judge, rendering our own again.  
More generous task be ours! to trace the art  
Of that Divine Physician Who through pain  
Purged out those ulcers from thy nobler part,  
And on the well-healed scar wrote large and plain  
That all might read:—“He doeth all things well  
Who of a Jacob makes an Israel.”

## EPHPHATHA

S. MARK vii. 34

“HE sighed.” Even He Who could all ills control,  
For the outward suffering spake of blight within ;  
In every pain His eye pierced, past the goal  
Of human vision, to the thought of sin.  
Then, gently leading him beyond the din  
Of the rude crowd, he touched and made him whole.  
So still, kind Saviour, seekest thou to win  
Thy secret conquest in the insensate soul.  
Apart in the sick chamber’s solitude  
Thy Spirit easiest works :—the palsied tongue  
To prayer and praise unwonted is unstrung,  
And the dull ear with keener sense endued.  
Both ear and tongue are dead to things divine ;  
Speak but Thine “Ephphatha” :—they both are Thine.

## “WHOM THE LORD LOVETH HE CHASTENETH”

HEB. xii. 6

SWEET is the world ere life begins to fade,  
While earth still wears her fair deceitful mask,  
And pleasure's votaries securely bask  
In sunshine chequered by no chilling shade.  
Let no ill chance their paradise invade,  
Let each day bring its light congenial task,  
Each night its quiet sleep ; no more they ask ;  
On these frail props their peace is fully stayed.  
Come, holy grief, in mercy break the charm !  
Let burst on them those constellations new  
Of heavenly hopes, and joys serene and calm,  
Soul-chastening thoughts which the world's glare  
denied :  
As, when the sunset fires have waned and died,  
God's stars creep out upon the darkening blue.

## “THESE MY BRETHREN, EVEN THESE LEAST”

S. MATT. xxv. 40 (R.V.)

THE words Thou spakest and the deeds Thou didst  
Live on ; and all Thy lifelong sacrifice  
Still bears its fruit. Nay, Thou, beyond our eyes  
Enthroned in heaven, still walkest in our midst ;  
For as in poverty Thou sometime hidst  
Thy Godhead’s glory, so, beneath the guise  
Of friendless grief and pain we recognise  
Thy suffering Form, as Thou, dear Master, bidst.  
In many a lonely garret blank and bare  
Still may we find Thee ; in downtrodden lives,  
And prison-cell, and fever-stricken den,  
And hospital, and hungry home, and where  
The unfeeling world crowds thick its busy hives  
With pale-faced children and uncared-for men.

## CONTINUITY

'Tis said that with approaching rain,  
Or thunder-heat, or pinching frost,  
The foot or finger long since lost  
Feels twinges of accustomed pain.

Nor, pondering, can we count it strange ;  
For wounds received in childhood smart  
Though flesh and nerve in every part  
Have suffered oft their seven years' change.

And who may doubt the Maker's aim  
Who orders this experience,  
This continuity of sense  
Apart from the material frame ?

Sensation in the severed limb !  
Oh, tells it not this solemn truth,  
That every man's forgotten youth  
Still is, and must be, part of him :—

That all that has been shall be, when  
The form to which his spirit clings  
Has perished, and all earthly things  
Have passed for ever from his ken ?

Our life is an unbroken whole :  
Flesh fails ; but we live on, and weave  
From self's first dawn to self's last eve  
The garment of the undying soul.

O Thou, our Hope, whate'er befall,  
Whate'er our past or present be,  
We ask but to be found in Thee  
Whose boundless merit covers all.

## THE EVENING OF CONFIRMATION DAY

Young hopeful heart, pure heart, not spoilt as yet  
By vain regret;

Who still canst tremble at the law's alarms;

On whose fair brow still lingers uneffaced  
The mystic sign of fealty, on it traced

When Faith first laid thee in thy Father's arms.

Blest wert thou then: more blest when now thy voice  
Has sealed the choice,

And thine own will confessed that Father's claim:

Thy prayer has pierced the heavens, and through  
the rift

Descends—oh doubt it not!—the sevenfold gift  
Which lighted once in Pentecostal flame.

Cherish within thee all that thou hast felt  
While rapt we knelt

And breathed our souls for thee,—we who have known  
With what array of foes thy life must cope:—

Brace thee to meet their brunt, nor dare to hope  
Man's common lot shall change for thee alone.

Ah, not too often comes that softened feeling  
That o'er thee stealing  
Made thine eyes glisten and thy bosom swell ;  
'Tis something to have felt !—'tis more to know  
How to retain undimmed the unwonted glow ;—  
Yet even in passing to have felt, is well.

'Tis something,—may be much. Comes not for nought  
One transient thought ;

There is a unity in these our lives :

Our paths no heaven-sent gleam has idly crossed,  
No joy, once really clasped, is wholly lost ;  
In memory's depths, though slumbering, it survives :

Some hymn, some phrase, is unto thee henceforth  
Fraught with new worth :

It shall come back to thee in far-off years ;  
And trembling tearful vows, now made in vain,  
Shall rise as from the tomb ; and once again  
Those vows shall be renewed, perhaps those tears.

Then go thou forth undaunted ; not unarmed,  
No life is charmed !

Trust not the feeling : life is given for toil ;  
Turn feeling into action, labour on  
Trustful and watchful, till thy work be done,  
And God absolve thee from this fleshly coil.

## LIVING FAITH

S. LUKE viii. 46

WHATEVER cobwebs our poor logic weaves,  
Each human soul holds, consciously, the key  
Of its own destiny : created free,  
Free it remains, though warped, until it leaves  
This brief probation. Round the Saviour heaves  
A surging crowd ; so close they press that He  
With words and looks of tenderest sympathy  
Can reach all ears and eyes ; yet none receives  
His benediction. Then one faithful soul  
Comes into living contact with His Will :—  
The Fount is opened ! and the electric thrill  
Of healing grace has made the sufferer whole :—  
A parable, wherein the secret lies  
Of Prayer and Sacramental Mysteries.

## FAITH AND WORKS

ROM. iii. 28 ; S. JAMES ii. 24

GREAT Spirit, Who through human speech  
Thy truth to men confidest,  
Not all to all, but part to each,  
The message Thou dividest ;  
Yet on our ears their words should fall  
Not part on each, but all on all.

But oft the favourite word we choose,  
Its fellow-word decrying ;  
And, maiming both, the whole we lose  
While on the part relying.  
So would our folly make divorce  
'Twixt Love the stream, and Faith the source.

Yet vain the Faith, and vain the Hope,  
That builds on heated feeling ;  
True faith is but a telescope  
Our hidden life revealing :  
A hand that clasps the Hand that gives  
All power whereby man feels,—and lives.

New Life—not rapture—is the test  
That Christ our Lord requireth ;  
For labourers is the promised rest  
To which true faith aspireth ;  
We've sterner work to do below  
Than dreaming in ecstatic glow.

To follow where our Leader trod  
The path of self-denial,  
To do and bear the will of God,  
Here lies our daily trial :  
In these the Christ Himself will shine,  
True mirrors of the Life Divine.

## DISCONTENT

S. LUKE xvii. 17

THOSE nine who leprous came, and clean returned,  
How self-complacently our hearts condemn  
The blindness which no ray of Love discerned,—  
No love responsive in their bosoms burned ;—  
“ We would not be like them ! ”

Yet leprous were we all, and the same Love  
Cleansed us in childhood from our nature’s stain ;  
And, day by day, if penitent we prove,  
Though much polluted, mercy from above  
Still cleanses us again.

And does not mercy compass all our ways ?  
Trials may come, will come, for Truth has said  
That chastisement our Father’s Love displays ;  
Through all life’s conflict sorrows were the bays  
That wreathed our Captain’s head.

And look around ! Whatever be our place,  
 Save in the lowest depths of human ill,  
 See we not myriads in far harder case  
 Bearing their burdens with a quiet grace  
 And meek submissive will ?

Think of the broken hearts, the ruined lives,<sup>1</sup>  
 Victims of fraud, condemned to lowliest lot  
 By others' sins,—for whom no hope survives  
 Of justice ; yet the sufferers wear their gyves  
 In patience, murmuring not :

The dreary homes, where workers weak and old  
 For scantiest pittance at their poor employ,  
 All vain repinings manfully controlled,  
 Toil far into the night, in dark and cold,  
 Without one earthly joy.

Picture the burning tears in silence shed  
 In some mean garret rank and dirt-defiled,  
 Where in its little coffin, newly dead,  
 Lies stark and gaunt, and lost for want of bread,  
 The mourner's only child.

O words how weak ! Our thankless lives are spent  
 In sunshine that ne'er cheers that hapless crowd ;  
 How dare we let our selfish gloom find vent  
 In fretfulness and peevish discontent  
 For every passing cloud ?

<sup>1</sup> See R. C. Trench, quoted in Bishop Paget's "Spirit of Discipline," pp. 64, 65.

Look we on Him Whose self-inflicted loss  
    Won hope of Heaven for us and every man,  
Turned all earth's pains to gold, earth's gold to dross ;—  
And then, with eyes fixt on His love-crowned Cross,  
    Live thankless, if we can !

## “ IDLE WORDS ”

S. MATT. xii. 36, 37

WE watched the vessel as they shipped her bales,  
'Twas but this morning, on the noisy quay;  
Another hour, and she was far at sea :  
And now, look yonder where her gleaming sails  
Scarce top the horizon ; ah, how fast she fails,—  
She's gone !—We shall forget her—Meanwhile she  
Speeds on her way. But, with new company  
And a new freight, one day the homeward gales  
Will waft her back to us. And so, my friend,  
Fare forth the light words of our daily speech,  
Laden with evil or with good, and reach  
Beyond our grasp ; returning in the end  
Deep-stored with their due recompense, to meet  
Our startled memory at the Judgment-seat.

## TRUTH IN DEATH

THE pale dawn glimmering through the close-drawn  
blind

Lit up the features of the dead man's face ;  
And, as I stood and gazed a little space,  
Lo, every lineament came out defined  
As I had known him in the years behind :  
Death's cunning chisel had destroyed all trace  
Of art and passion, carving in their place  
The perfect portrait of his native mind.  
O solemn parable ! Thus oft it fares  
In the inward man ; our genuine selves to screen  
From the world's knowledge is our lifelong task ;  
And each gets praise by the false face he wears,  
Till drops the curtain on life's closing scene,  
And every actor must take off his mask.



# H Y M N S



## QUEEN VICTORIA'S JUBILEE

*June 20, 1887*

RISE, Britons, rise, and to high heaven  
Send up your hymns of praise,  
From every land that, far or near,  
Victoria's sceptre sways.  
Oh, let no heart be cold to-day,  
Oh, let no voice be dumb !  
It is our good Queen's Festival,  
Her Jubilee is come.

God of all grace, Thy gifts to each  
Each heart in secret knows,  
But now with universal thanks  
An Empire's heart o'erflows :  
All lips one common boon to own  
In one glad concord move,—  
Our Queen, a just and virtuous Queen,  
Throned in her people's love.

Yea, King of kings, in Thee they stand,  
 All powers on earth that be ;  
 Our reverent awe, our loyal love,  
 Rise up through them to Thee :  
 By Thee, true Sun of Righteousness,  
 As planets fair they shine :  
 Then in their light, if light be ours,  
 The praise shall all be Thine.

If still beneath Victoria's rule  
 Peace reigns in all our coasts,  
 Not her's, not our's, the glory be,  
 But Thine, great Lord of hosts !  
 If nobler lives in court or cot  
 These latest years have known,  
 'Tis Heaven's reflected light that streams  
 Down from our Sovereign's throne.

For as soft showers on lofty hills  
 Feed first the upland heath,  
 And thence in freshening rills flow down  
 To enrich the vales beneath :  
 So when Thy Spirit's dew, good LORD,  
 Distils on royal domes,  
 Pure streams from that high vantage-ground  
 Steal down to humbler homes.

Then, Britons, bless we God supreme,  
And for our dear Queen pray  
That He through every change and chance  
Be still her guide and stay :  
And when—her high work done—she lays  
Her earthly sceptre down,  
Give rest in Thine own kingdom, LORD,  
And an unfading crown.

## HARVEST THANKSGIVING PROCESSIONAL

1886

LIFT to GOD your voices,  
Brothers, lift them high !  
Is His Hand not o'er us :  
Is His Love not nigh ?  
Faithful is His promise,  
Wise His every word ;  
Blest the souls that trusting  
Rest upon the LORD !  
Lift to GOD your voices,  
Brothers, lift them high !  
Is His Hand not o'er us :  
Is His Love not nigh ?

Lord, on many nations  
Sound Thy judgments forth ;  
Comes the cry of famine  
From the frozen North ;  
War with all its terrors  
Lingers in the East,

Scarce the earthquake-tremor  
In the West has ceased :  
Still is sure Thy promise,  
Wise Thy every word ;  
Blest the souls that trusting  
Rest upon the LORD !

Oh, whence comes that England  
Still should share Thy smile,  
Peace and quiet flourish  
In our happy isle ?  
Not our strength or foresight,  
Not our own deserts,  
Nought save Thy forbearance  
Harm and death averts.  
Lift ye then your voices,  
Brothers, lift them high !  
For God's Hand is o'er us,  
And His Love is nigh.

Though our commerce languish,  
Though our harvest store  
Still must be replenished  
From some distant shore,—  
Not the less our praises  
Unto God we lift ;  
More than our deserving  
Is our Father's gift ;

Sure for aye His promise,  
Wise His every word ;  
Blest the souls that trusting  
Rest upon the **LORD** !

God, to Thee be glory,  
Maker, Saviour, Guide ;  
Heaven and earth Thy fulness  
Filleth far and wide.  
Lift ye then your voices,  
Brothers, lift them high !  
For His Hand is o'er us  
And His Love is nigh.  
Blest the souls that trusting  
Rest upon the **LORD** !  
He will be their Portion  
And their great Reward.

## HARVEST THANKSGIVING PROCESSIONAL

1892

GIVE thanks and sing, O land,  
His mercies are renewed  
Whose wisdom metes with careful hand  
    Our yearly food ;  
Though on the sickly plant  
    The ears be thin and raw,  
Their growth is ordered, full or scant,  
    By perfect law.

Thou, LORD, through all our lives  
    Hast never failed Thine own ;  
Not chance our wealth or want contrives,  
    But Thou alone ;  
'Tis Thou Who dost provide  
    Our blessings, rich or few ;  
Then unto Thee, whate'er betide,  
    Our thanks are due.

Are we so dull and blind,  
So dead to things above,  
That only in large gifts we find  
A Father's love ?  
What if that love withhold  
Earth's treasure from our eyes,  
That we the imperishable gold  
May learn to prize ?

Enough if daily bread  
Supply our frugal board ;  
Not *that* was in the desert spread  
For Christ our LORD :  
To Him Thou seem'dst to give  
Nought but the mocking stone ;  
For Thou wouldest teach man doth not live  
By bread alone.

So in each word of Thine,  
Though sharp it sound and stern,  
Thy trustful child a Love Divine  
Will still discern :  
E'en at his worst estate  
Thy promise pledged he hath,  
And knows that unseen angels wait  
About his path.

Then in the darkest days  
Our harvest-hymns we'll sing,  
And duteous praise to Thee we'll raise,  
Our **LORD** and King.  
Though blight be on the plain  
And storms blast every hill,  
Thou changest not, Thou wilt remain  
Our Father still.

## HYMN FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE

(MIDNIGHT SERVICE)

ERE yet the year has flown,  
Ere yet the year begins,  
Come, and before God's mercy-throne  
Bewail we all our sins.

See how with outstretched arms  
Christ waits to help and save ;  
And shall this poor world's dying charms  
Our spirits still enslave ?

O heart o'ergrown with weeds,  
With passions rank and vile,  
For thee His Blood still intercedes,  
“ Lord, spare it yet awhile ! ”

“ Hold back Thy doom severe,  
Let mercy still find room.  
Oh, spare it yet this one more year,  
Hold back Thy righteous doom ! ”

O heart, thy bondage break,  
Shake free thy fettered will !  
And Mercy for her own sweet sake  
Shall help and save thee still.

Then with the ransomed host  
Shalt thou through endless days  
To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost  
Thy thankful tribute raise.

THE END





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